100 Stories of Hadhrat Umar (RA)

By:
Sheikh Muhammad Siddique Manshawi

Translation Edited by:
Mufti A.H.Elias
(May Allaah Protect him)

100 Stories about

Hadhrat Umar τ

Foreword to Urdu Translation

This book discussing 100 stories from the life of Hadhrat Umar τ was originally compiled in Arabic by Sheikh Muhammad Siddeeq Minshawi. The book included a hundred interesting incidents in the life of Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ, which offer guidance for numerous aspects of daily life. The unique feature of the stories of the pious predecessors is that it not only increases the level of one's Imaan, but also creates humility and renews the spirit to engage in so many good deeds such as giving Sadaqah, abstinence, Ibaadah, self reformation and so much more.

Allaah has endowed this humble servant with the opportunity to translate this book. May Allaah accept this humble effort together with the efforts of the manager of the Baytul Uloom Publications Moulana Muhammad Naazim Ashraf for the publication and distribution of this book. Aameen

Before this book, there have been Urdu translations of several important Arabic books from Baytul Uloom of Lahore, which have been well accepted by the public as well as by scholars. Some of these include:

- Encyclopaedia of dream interpretations
- The biography of Sayyidina Faatima Zahra رضي الله عنها
- The Virtues and Description of the eating of Rasulullaah ρ
- 100 Stories of Hadhrat Umar τ

- 100 Stories of Hadhrat Ali τ
- Signs of Qiyaamah
- Upbringing of children in the light of the Qur'aan and Ahadeeth
- The Harms of sins and their remedies
- The Startling miracles of the Ambiyaa عليهم السلام
- Women deserving of the punishment of Jahannam
- Women in the Qur'aan

In conclusion, I sincerely make du’aa to Allaah the Rabb of the universe to accept our efforts and make them a treasure for us in the Aakhirah. May Allaah grant all readers of this book the ability to benefit from this book. Aameen.

Khaalid Mahmood
Jaamiah Ashrafiyyah Lahore
President of the Guild of Authors Lahore

Name and Lineage

Hadhrat Umar τ was given the family name of Abul Hafs. His father was Khattaab, who was the son of Nufayl, the son of Abdul Uzza, the son of Rayyaah, the son of Abdullaah, the son of Qurt, Razaah, the son of Adi, the son of Ka'b, the son of Luway, the son of Ghaalib. He belonged to the Adi family of the Quraysh tribe **and his lineage joined with that of Rasulullaah ρ from Ka'b bin Luway[1]. He was born 13 years after the Year of the Elephant[2] and became a Muslim 5 years before the Hijrah[3].**

He was the Ameerul Mu'mineen, second Khalifah from amongst the Khulafaa Raashideen and one upon whose hands numerous miracles and conquests took place. The Muslims were strengthened when he became a Muslim and it was through him that truth was separated from falsehood. He was one of the earliest Muslims, his opinion often corresponded with the verses of the Qur'aan and it was by his efforts that Imaan and the Qur'aan spread widely.

He was an awe-inspiring man and even Shaytaan feared him. However, he was compassionate towards the poor, needy and aged and overlooked the faults of people. He also wept very easily. He participates in all the expeditions led by Rasulullaah ρ and **was the first Muslim to openly perform salaah by the Kabah.** He was known for his honesty and boldness and never feared reproach when doing what is right.

The Du'aa Rasulullaah ρ made for him

Rasulullaah ρ once made du'aa to Allaah saying, "O Allaah! Strengthen with one of the two Umars whom You love best." Here Rasulullaah ρ was referring to Hadhrat Umar τ and Amr bin Hishaam, better known as Abu Jahal. It was therefore Hadhrat Umar τ whom Allaah loved best.[4]

---

[1] Ibn Sa'd (Vol.3 Pg.265).
[2] *Isti'aab* (Vol.3 Pg.1145)
[3] A'laam (Vol.5 Pg.45).
[4] Tirmidhi (Vol.5 Pg.617).

His Virtues

Rasulullaah ρ said that Allaah had placed the truth upon the tongue and heart of Hadhrat Umar τ.[1]

Rasulullaah ρ also said, "If there was a Nabi after me, it would be Umar."[2]

Rasulullaah ρ also said that he saw all Shayaateen from amongst man and Jinn run away when they saw Hadhrat Umar τ.[3]

Rasulullaah ρ said, "There has been a *Muhaddath* in every Ummah and the *Muhaddath* of this Ummah is Umar."[4]

Hadhrat Ali τ said that the best people of this Ummah after Rasulullaah ρ were Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ and Hadhrat Umar τ.[5]

The Firsts of Hadhrat Umar τ

Hadhrat Umar τ was the first to do the following:

- To announce his intention of emigrating to Madinah
- To be given the title of Ameerul Mu'mineen
- To start the Hijrah calendar
- To have the people perform the Taraaweeh salaah in Jamaa'ah
- To suggest that the Qur'aan be compiled in a single volume
- To waive the Jizyah from Dhimmis who were poor and aged
- To engineer a system of identifying Dhimmis
- To make conscription compulsory
- To dispatch judges and orators with the armies
- To issue declarations and ruling in writing
- To establish counsels for governors
- To patrol at night to gauge the condition of the people
- To establish register to record the names and wages of the soldiers
- To open inns for travellers

---

[1] Ahmad (Vol.5 Pg.145).
[2] Ahmad (Vol.4 Pg.154).
[3] Tirmidhi (Vol.5 Pg.580).
[4] Bukhaari – 3486.
[5] Bukhaari – 3468.

His Demise

A slave of Hadhrat Mugheirs bin Shu'ba τ by the name of Abu Lulu stabbed Hadhrat Umar τ while he led the Fajr salaah. This severe wound caused his death three days later, after which he was buried alongside his bosom friends Rasulullaah ρ and Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ.

Story 1: The Status of Hadhrat Khowla bint Tha'laba رضي الله عنها

An old lady called Khowlah رضي الله عنها once met Hadhrat Umar τ as she was travelling with some people. When she bade Hadhrat Umar τ to stop, he obliged, came close to her and lowered his head (to listen to her). He also placed his hand on her shoulders (and stood there listening to her) until she had stated her needs and had left. Someone asked, "O Ameerul Mu'mineen! You kept senior men of the Quraysh waiting for that old lady?" "Shame on you!" Hadhrat Umar τ scolded, "Do you have any idea who that lady is?" When the man submitted that he did not, Hadhrat Umar τ said, "That is the woman whose complaint Allaah heard from above the seven heavens. That is Khowlah bint Tha'laba. By Allaah! Had she not turned away and left me until nightfall, I would have never turned away from her without hearing out her needs."[1]

Story 2: An Old Poetess

Hadhrat Umar τ left the house one night to keep watch. When he saw a lantern burning, he went closer and found an old woman carding wool to be spun. She was reciting some couplets (which meant):

"May the salutations of all righteous people be showered on Muhammad ρ
May the chosen best people send their salutations to you (O Rasulullaah ρ)

You had been regularly crying (in Ibaadah) before dawn
But death has many ways and if only I knew
Whether the Aakhirah will join me with my beloved (Rasulullaah ρ)"

Hadhrat Umar τ sat down and began weeping. He continued weeping until he was able to knock at her door. "Who is it?" she asked. When he replied that he was Umar bin Khattaab, she said, "What has Umar to do with me? What brings Umar at this hour?" Hadhrat Umar τ put her at ease saying, "Open the door. May Allaah have mercy on you. You are in no trouble." When she opened the door, Hadhrat Umar τ entered and

[1] Ibn Abi Haatim, Daarmi (pg.26), Bayhaqi and *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.2 Pg.520).

requested, "Please repeat to me the words you just said." She then repeated the couplets. When she reached the closing words, Hadhrat Umar τ asked, "Do include me with you two." She then added, "And Umar, do forgive him, O Most Forgiving." Hadhrat Umar τ was happy and returned.[1]

Story 3: A Hungry Child

When a trade caravan arrived (in Madinah), they set up camp at the place where the Muslims performed the Eid salaah. Hadhrat Umar τ asked Hadhrat Abdur Rahmaan bin Auf τ whether he was prepared to accompany him to guard the camp against theft that night. (Hadhrat Abdur Rahmaan bin Auf τ agreed and) The two men spent the night guarding the camp and performing salaah (in turn). Hearing the cry of a child, Hadhrat Umar τ went in the direction and said to the mother, "Fear Allaah and treat your child well." He then returned to where he was. When he again heard the child cry, he went back to the mother and repeated what he had said earlier. He then returned to his place. When he again heard the child cry towards the end of the night, he returned to the mother and said, "Shame on you! You seem to be a terrible mother! It seems like your child has not be calmed the entire night."

The mother responded by saying, "O servant of Allaah! You have pestered me all night. I have been trying to pacify my child to wean him but he refuses to do so." "Why are you doing this?" enquired Hadhrat Umar τ. "Because," the lady explained, "Umar only gives allowances to children who have been weaned." "How old is the child?" asked Hadhrat Umar τ. When the woman informed him that the child was only a few months old, Hadhrat Umar τ said, "Please do not rush him."

When Hadhrat Umar τ led the Fajr salaah, the people could barely understand his recitation of the Qur'aan because of his excessive weeping. After saying the Salaam, he exclaimed, "Woe to Umar! How many Muslim children has he killed?!" He then instructed someone to announce, **"Take note! Do not rush your children into weaning because we have now fixed an allowance for every Muslim child**

[1] Ibn Mubaarak and Ibn Asaakir, as quoted in *Muntakhab Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.4 Pg.381).

born." He then wrote to all the Muslim territories, notifying them that an allowance has been stipulated for every new born Muslim child.[1]

Story 4: An Old Blind Woman

There was an extremely old blind lady living on the outskirts of Madinah whom Hadhrat Umar τ used to regularly visit at night. He would go there to fetch water for her (from the well) and do other chores for her. However, whenever he got to her, he would find that someone else had beat him there and had already seen to her needs. He went to her many times only to find that he was not the first to get there. (One day) He sat in wait for the person (who always beat him) and found that the person was Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ. Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ would tend to the old lady even though he was the Khalifah. Hadhrat Umar τ exclaimed, "By my life! It could only be you!"[2]

Story 5: A Bedouin Carrying his Mother During Tawaaf

Hadhrat Ali τ and Hadhrat Umar τ were leaving from performing Tawaaf when they saw a Bedouin carrying his mother on his back reciting the following couplets (which mean):

"I am her conveyance that never bolts
and when other conveyances become crazed, I shall not
She did more when she carried me and suckled me"

He then called out, " لَبَّيْك أَللّهُمَّ لَبَّيْك " Addressing Hadhrat Umar τ, Hadhrat Ali τ said, "O Abu Hafs! Let us go back to perform Tawaaf so that the mercy descending (on the Bedouin) may encompass us as well." They then started performing Tawaaf as the Bedouin repeated:

"I am her conveyance that never bolts
and when other conveyances become crazed, I shall not
She did more when she carried me and suckled me
لَبَّيْك أَللّهُمَّ لَبَّيْك (At your service, O Allaah, I am at your service)"

---

[1] Ibn Sa'd (Vol.3 Pg.217), as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.2 Pg.317).
[2] Khateeb, as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.4 Pg.347).

At the same time, Hadhrat Ali τ reciting the following couplets (which mean):

"Allaah is Most Appreciative if you care for your mother
He shall then grant you in abundance for your little effort"[1]

Story 6: A Youngster Replies from his Grave

There lived a youngster during the time of Hadhrat Umar τ who was extremely devoted to worship and was always in the Masjid. Hadhrat Umar τ was very impressed with him. The youngster had a very old father and would visit his father every day after performing the Isha salaah. However, his road passed by the door of a woman who used to flaunt her charms by the roadside because she had become infatuated with him. As he passed by one night, she made a persistent effort to seduce him until he eventually followed her. As she entered through her door and he was about to do the same, he remembered Allaah. The evil intention vanished instantly and the following verse of the Qur'aan came to his tongue:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ اتَّقَواْ إِذَا مَسَّهُمْ طَائِفٌ مِّنَ الشَّيْطَانِ تَذَكَّرُواْ فَإِذَا هُم مُّبْصِرُونَ

Indeed when the temptation *(to do evil)* **from Shaytaan reaches those who fear Allaah, they remember** *(Allaah and engage in Dhikr, thinking about His punishment and recalling the rewards for abstaining from sin)* **and their eyes instantly open** *(they realise Shaytaan's plot and ignore the temptation)***.** {Surah A'raaf, verse 201}

The youngster immediately fell unconscious. The woman then called for her maidservant and with her help, the two of them carried him to his door. He was made to sit and his father's door was knocked. When his father came out to look for him, he found him unconscious in the doorway. He summoned for some of his family members and they together carried him inside the house.

When the youngster regained consciousness after a considerable part of the night had passed, his father asked, "Dear son! How are you?" "I am well," came the reply. When his father then asked him in the name of Allaah what had happened, he informed his father about the incident. "Dear son," the father asked, "What was the verse you

[1] Bayhaqi, as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.8 Pg.310).

recited?" When the youngster recited the verse he had recited at the time, he again fell unconscious. Although the people tried to revive him, this time he had passed away. It was still night when they bathed him, shrouded him and buried him.

It was only the following morning that the people informed Hadhrat Umar τ about it. Hadhrat Umar τ immediately went to console the father. "Why did you not inform me (of the funeral)?" Hadhrat Umar τ enquired. "O Ameerul Mu'mineen!" the father replied, "It happened during the night (and we did not wish to disturb you)." Hadhrat Umar τ then told them to accompany him to the grave and when they arrived there, Hadhrat Umar τ addressed the youngster by his name and recited the verse:

وَلِمَنْ خَافَ مَقَامَ رَبِّهِ جَنَّتَانِ

The one who fears standing in the presence of his Rabb *(on the Day of Qiyaamah)* **shall have two gardens** *(of Jannah)*. {Surah Rahmaan, verse 46}

The youngster responded twice from within the grave saying, "O Umar! My Rabb has already given me both these gardens in Jannah."[1]

Another narration states that **the youngster said, "Dear uncle! Go to Umar, convey my Salaams to him and ask him what the reward will be for the person who fears standing before his Rabb."** The end of this narration states that Hadhrat Umar τ went to the youngster's grave and said, "You shall have two gardens of Jannah. You shall have two gardens of Jannah."[2]

Story 7: "Today I have Excelled Abu Bakr"

Rasulullaah ρ gave the Sahabah ψ plenty of encouragement to fight in Jihaad and asked them to spend for the pleasure of Allaah. The Sahabah ψ therefore donated most generously. **The first to spend so generously was Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ who donated everything he owned, equalling four thousand Dirhams.** Rasulullaah ρ asked him, "Have you left anything for your family?" he replied, "I have left Allaah

---

[1] Haakim, as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.1 Pg.267). Ibn Asaakir has reported a similar narration, as quoted in the *Tafseer* of Ibn Katheer (Vol.2 Pg.279).
[2] Bayhaqi, as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.1 Pg.267).

and His Rasool ρ for them." Hadhrat Umar τ then arrived with half of his belongings. When Rasulullaah ρ asked him if he had left anything for his family, he replied, "Yes, I have left half of what I have brought." (Another narration states that he had left as much as he had brought.) When Hadhrat Umar τ heard about what Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ had brought he said, "He has beaten me each time we have vied to do good."[1]

Story 8: I shall henceforth not Absolve anyone after you

Hadhrat Abdur Rahmaan bin Auf τ once went to Hadhrat Ummu Salamah رضي الله عنها and asked, "Dear mother! I fear that my wealth will destroy me because I am the wealthiest of the Quraysh." She advised him saying, "Dear son! Then spend (in charity) because I have heard Rasulullaah ρ say, 'Verily there are some of my companions who will never see me after I part from them.'" Hadhrat Abdur Rahmaan bin Auf τ then left and happened to meet Hadhrat Umar τ. When he informed Hadhrat Umar τ about what Hadhrat Ummu Salamah رضي الله عنها had told him, Hadhrat Umar τ went to her and asked, "I ask you in the name of Allaah to tell me whether I am amongst them." She replied, "You are not. I shall henceforth not absolve anyone after you (by informing them if they are amongst those companions or not, if they take Allaah's name and ask me to inform them)."[2]

Story 9: The Leper

Hadhrat Umar τ once passed by a lady suffering from leprosy as she was busy performing Tawaaf. He said to her, "O servant of Allaah! Do not cause difficulty to the people (because they are afraid to perform Tawaaf with you here). It would be best for you to remain at home." She then remained at home (and stopped going to the Masjidul Haraam). It later occurred that a man passing by her said to her, "The person who had prevented you has passed away. You may now come out." She responded by saying, **"It is not befitting of me to obey him while he was alive and then disobey him after his death."**[3]

---

[1] Abu Dawood – Hadith 3675
[2] Bazzaar, reporting from reliable sources as confirmed by Haythami (Vol.9 Pg.72).
[3] Maalik, as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.5 Pg.192).

Story 10: The Possessiveness of Hadhrat Umar τ

Rasulullaah ρ was sitting amongst the Sahabah ψ, sharing with them the pearls and gems of his Ahadeeth and words of wisdom when he recounted to them a dream that he had. He narrated that he saw a woman making wudhu in a mansion in Jannah. When he asked the angels whom the mansion belonged to, they informed him that it belonged to Hadhrat Umar τ. Rasulullaah ρ says, "When I then thought of the possessiveness of Umar, I did not go any further." Hadhrat Umar τ wept when he heard this and said, "O Rasulullaah ρ! How can I display possessiveness before you?"[1]

Story 11: Hadhrat Umar τ Treats Sick Camels

A delegation led by Hadhrat Ahnaf bin Qais τ returned arrived from Iraq in the scorching desert heat. Arriving in Madinah, they sought out the Ameerul Mu'mineen Hadhrat Umar τ and found him without his turban as he treated some of the sick camels that were donated as zakaah. When Hadhrat Umar τ saw Hadhrat Ahnaf τ, he called out to him, "O Ahnaf! Change your clothing and come here to assist the Ameerul Mu'mineen in treating these camels in which the orphans and widows have a share."

"May Allaah forgive you, O Ameerul Mu'mineen! Someone said, "Why do not you summon one of the slaves to do this?" In a humble tone, Hadhrat Umar τ remarked, "Is there anyone who is more of a slave than I? And who is Ahnaf? The leader of the Muslims is but their slave. Just as it is necessary for a slave to have the interests of his master at heart and to be loyal to him, so too is it necessary for the leader to do the same for the people."[2]

Story 12: "May I ride with you?"

Hadhrat Umar τ was standing in the scorching heat just outside Madinah with a shawl covering his head, when a slave passed by riding a donkey. "May I ride with you?" Hadhrat Umar τ asked. The slave immediately dismounted and handed the reins to Hadhrat Umar τ,

---

[1] *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.10 Pg.96)
[2] *Kanzul Ummaal* (Hadith 14307).

saying, “Do take it, O Ameerul Mu'mineen!” Hadhrat Umar τ refused, saying, “No, you mount and I will ride behind you. Do you wish to let me ride on the soft part, while you sit on the hard part?”

However, the slave insisted on sitting behind, but Hadhrat Umar τ insisted that the slave sit in front. **The slave was eventually forced to submit and the people of Madinah saw him riding behind a slave upon the donkey.**[1]

Story 13: Hadhrat Umar τ teaches his son a lesson

Hadhrat Umar τ once saw **his son with his hair well combed and wearing good clothing (excessively beautifying himself).** Hadhrat Umar τ started to hit his son with his whip until the boy cried. When his daughter Hadhrat Hafsah رضي الله عنها interceded and asked why he was hitting the boy, Hadhrat Umar τ remarked, **“I noticed that he was proud of himself, so I wanted to teach him some humility.”**[2]

Story 14: Hadhrat Umar τ carries a water skin

Shrugging sleep off his shoulders, Hadhrat Umar τ left his home to patrol the streets one night when he noticed a bare-footed woman carrying a large water skin full of water. Upon enquiry, she informed him that she had a family to support and without a servant to assist her, she needed to provide water for her family by herself. She carried it to the house after dark since she was too shy to do so during the day. Hadhrat Umar τ then carried the full skin for her to her house. When they reached the door, he told her to see the Ameerul Mu'mineen the following day, who would provide her with a servant. However, she told him that she would be unable to get an audience from the Ameerul Mu'mineen. “Inshaa Allaah,” Hadhrat Umar τ told her, “He will see you.” When she reached the quarters of the Ameerul Mu'mineen the following morning and recognised the Ameerul Mu'mineen to be her helper the previous night, she hastily made her way back home. **Hadhrat Umar τ then instructed that she be provided with a maidservant and that she receives an allowance from the treasury.**[3]

---

[1] *Kanzul Ummaal* (Hadith 35991).
[2] *Lan Talqaa Mithla Umar* (Vol.2 Pg.261).
[3] *Lan Talqaa Mithla Umar* (Vol.2 Pg.260).

Story 15: "We shall neither listen to you, nor obey you!"

Ameerul Mu'mineen Hadhrat Umar τ had just completed the task of distributing clothing to the people when he mounted the pulpit to deliver a sermon. "Listen to me!" he announced to the people gathered there. **"We shall neither listen to you, nor obey you!" shouted Hadhrat Salmaan τ.** Surprised, Hadhrat Umar τ asked, "Why not, O Abu Abdullaah?" Hadhrat Salmaan τ replied, **"Because you have given us one garment each, while you are wearing two."**

"Do not be hasty in judging me, O Abu Abdullaah!" Hadhrat Umar τ said. Hadhrat Umar τ then called for his son. When Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Umar τ presented himself, Hadhrat Umar τ asked, "I ask you to in the name of Allaah to state whether this garment belongs to you or not." Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Umar τ admitted that it was his. Hadhrat Salmaan τ then said, "We shall now listen to you and obey you!"[1]

Story 16: Hadhrat Umar τ Admonishes

The news reached Hadhrat Umar τ that Hadhrat Yazeed bin Abu Sufyaan τ ate various types of meats. Hadhrat Umar τ then said to his slave Yarfa, "Let me know when his evening meal is served to him." When the meal was served to Hadhrat Yazeed τ, Yarfa duly informed Hadhrat Umar τ. Hadhrat Umar τ went to Hadhrat Yazeed τ, greeted with Salaam and sought permission to enter. He entered when permission was granted and Hadhrat Yazeed τ offered Hadhrat Umar τ his dinner. When *Thareed* and meat were served, Hadhrat Umar τ joined Hadhrat Yazeed τ in the meal. When roasted meat was served, Hadhrat Yazeed τ took some while Hadhrat Umar τ did not. Hadhrat Umar τ then exclaimed, **"Allaah! Are you eating a meal after a meal, O Yazeed bin Abu Sufyaan? I swear by the Being Who controls the life of Umar! If you oppose the lifestyle of Rasulullaah ρ and the Sahabah ψ, you will certainly be led off their path (to the highest echelons of Jannah)."**[2]

---

[1] Tabari (Vol.5 Pg.24).

[2] Ibn Mubaarak, as quoted in *Muntakhab Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.4 Pg.401).

Story 17: A Missing Husband

As Hadhrat Umar τ was patrolling (the streets of Madinah), he overheard a woman saying:

تَطَاوَلَ هذَا اللّيلُ وَ اسْوَدَّتْ جَانِبُه   وَ أَرَّقَنِي أَن لاَّ حَبِيْبَ اُلاعِبُهُ

فَلَوْ لا حِذَارُ اللهِ لا شَيْءَ مِثْلُهُ   لَزُعْزِعَ مِنْ هذَا السَّرِيرِ جَوَانِبُهُ

"The night is long and its ends have become dark
I am unable to sleep because I have no beloved to fondle

Were it not for fear of Allaah, which is something without a match
every end of this bed would be shaken furiously"

When Hadhrat Umar τ asked her what the matter was, she replied, "My husband has been away for several months and I have great desire for him." Hadhrat Umar τ asked, "Have you no evil intentions?" "Allaah forbid!" she exclaimed. Hadhrat Umar τ then said to her, "Control yourself for I shall sent a message to him."

When Hadhrat Umar τ had done this, he went to (his daughter) Hadhrat Hafsa رضي الله عنها and asked, "I wish to ask you something that worries me, so do remove my worries from me. Tell me after how long a period does a woman start desiring for her husband?" Hadhrat Hafsa رحمه الله cast down her gazes out of modesty. Hadhrat Umar τ said, "Verily Allaah does not shy away from the truth." **She then motioned with her hands to indicate three months, otherwise four.**

Hadhrat Umar τ then wrote (to the governors of all the regions) that no army was to be kept away (from home) for more than four months.[1]

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Umar τ narration Hadhrat Umar τ once left the house at night. He then happened to overhear a woman recite the following couplet:

تَطَاوَلَ هذَا اللّيلُ وَ اسْوَدَّتْ جَانِبُه   وَ أَرَّقَنِي أَن لاَّ حَبِيْبَ اُلاعِبُهُ

---

[1] Abdur Razzaaq, as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.8 Pg.308).
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

"The night is long and its ends have become dark
I am unable to sleep because I have no beloved to fondle"

Hadhrat Umar τ then asked his daughter Hadhrat Hafsa رضي الله عنها, "What is the maximum period that a woman can do without her husband?" **She replied, "Four to six months." Hadhrat Umar τ then said, "I shall then not keep an army (away from home) for more than this period."**[1]

Story 18: "Everyone knows more than Umar!"

Hadhrat Umar bin Khattaab τ once told the people that they were not to ask for more dowry than Rasulullaah ρ paid. He also made it clear that if anyone paid, the surplus would be deposited into the state treasury. As he left, a woman from the Quraysh asked, "Tell me whether it is you or the Book of Allaah that is more worthy of obeying?" When Hadhrat Umar τ readily admitted that the Qur'aan was more worthy of obeying, she said, "You have just forbidden people from large amounts of dowry when Allaah declares:

وَآتَيْتُمْ إِحْدَاهُنَّ قِنطَارًا فَلاَ تَأْخُذُواْ مِنْهُ شَيْئًا

...when you have given one of them *(your wives)* **a fortune** *(as dowry)*, **then do not take anything from it ...'**[2]

To this, Hadhrat Umar τ remarked, "Everyone knows more than Umar! The lady is right and the man is wrong." He then returned to the pulpit and declared, "I have earlier forbidden you from large dowries, but now anyone may spend as much as he desires."[3]

Story 19: "Even Shaytaan Fears you, Umar!"

Rasulullaah ρ had just returned victoriously from a military expedition when an Abyssinian girl came to him and said that she has vowed to beat her drum and sing if Allaah returned Rasulullaah ρ safely back to Madinah. Rasulullaah ρ said, "If you had taken a vow, then you may go

---

[1] Bayhaqi (Vol.9 Pg.29).
[2] Surah Nisaa, verse 20
[3] *Kanzul Ummaal* (Hadith 45796).

ahead if you please." The girl started to beat her drum and sing despite the likes of Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ, Hadhrat Ali τ and Hadhrat Uthmaan τ arriving there. **However, as soon as she saw Hadhrat Umar τ arrived, she flung her drum to the ground and ran off. Rasulullaah ρ then remarked, "Even Shaytaan fears you, Umar!"**[1]

Story 20: Hadhrat Umar τ Wrestles with a Jinn

Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood τ said, "When a man from the companions of Rasulullaah ρ met a man from the Jinn and they wrestled, the human floored the Jinn. The Jinn asked for another wrestling bout and this time the human floored him yet again. The human then asked, 'You appear to be extremely feeble and pale and your forearms resemble those of a dog. Are all of you Jinn like this?' 'No, By Allaah!' the Jinn replied, 'Some of us are very powerfully built. Nevertheless, wrestle me for the third time and if you manage to floor me again, I shall teach you something that will be of great benefit to you.' The human fought him again and after flooring him, said, 'Come tell me what it is.' **'Do you recite *Aayatul Kursi*?' the Jinn enquired. When the human told him that he did, the Jinn said, 'Whenever you recite it in your house, every Shaytaan vacates the house, braying like a donkey and will not enter again until the morning.'"**

"O Abu Abdur Rahmaan!" someone asked Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood τ, "Who was that companion of Rasulullaah ρ?" Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood τ frowned, turned to the person and replied, "Who else could he be but Hadhrat Umar τ."[2]

Story 21: "Auf bin Maalik is Right"

Hadhrat Umar τ was sitting amongst the Sahabah ψ as Ameerul Mu'mineen when they started to discuss the life of Rasulullaah ρ. During the discussion, someone began to praise the accomplishments of Hadhrat Umar τ and said, "By Allaah, O Ameerul Mu'mineen! We have never seen anyone as just as you are, who speaks the truth as

---

[1] Tirmidhi (Vol.5 Pg.260).

[2] Tabraani. Haythami (Vol.9 Pg.71) has commented on the chain of narrators. Abu Nu'aym has reported a similar narration in his *Dalaa'il* (Pg.131).

you do and who is as hard on the Munaafiqeen as you are. After Rasulullaah ρ, you are the best of all people.”

Hearing this, Hadhrat Auf bin Maalik τ interjected in anger, “I swear by Allaah that you are lying! After Rasulullaah ρ we have seen someone who is better than him.” “Who was that?” Hadhrat Umar τ asked. Hadhrat Auf τ replied, “He was Abu Bakr τ.” Hadhrat Umar τ then confirmed, “Auf bin Maalik is right and you people are wrong. Allaah is witness to the fact that Abu Bakr was more fragrant than a bag of musk and that I am more misled than the camels at my house.”[1]

Story 22: “I shall never eat this butter until all the people are able to eat to their fill”

The wife of Hadhrat Umar τ once bought some butter for 60 Dirhams. When he asked her about it, she said that she had used her personal money and none of his. However, he said, **“I shall never eat this butter until all the people are able to eat to their fill”**[2]

Story 23: Hadhrat Umar τ chides himself

Hadhrat Umar bin Khattaab τ once made an announcement for the people to gather in the Masjid. The people got together and when a large number had gathered, Hadhrat Umar τ mounted the pulpit. After duly praising Allaah and sending salutations on Rasulullaah ρ, he said, "O people! I have seen the time when I used to graze animals for my maternal aunts from the Banu Makhzoom tribe. (As wages) They would then give me a handful of dates and raisins. I would then spend the entire day doing this and what days they were?!"

When Hadhrat Umar τ descended from the pulpit, Hadhrat Abdur Rahmaan bin Auf τ said, "O Ameerul Mu'mineen! All you have done is ridicule yourself." "Shame on you, O Ibn Auf!" Hadhrat Umar τ exclaimed, "When I was alone by myself, the thought came to mind that since I am the Ameerul Mu'mineen, there must be none better

---

[1] *Kanzul Ummaal* (Hadith 35629).
[2] *Manaaqib Ameerul Mu'mineen* by Ibn Jowzi رحمه الله pg.81.

than me. (By doing what I did) I wanted to teach myself who I really was."[1]

Story 24: "Fear Allaah, O Ameerul Mu'mineen!"

A man once stood in a rage before Hadhrat Umar τ and exclaimed, **"Fear Allaah, O Ameerul Mu'mineen!"** Someone cautioned the man, saying, "Are you telling the Ameerul Mu'mineen to fear Allaah?" However, Hadhrat Umar τ said, **"Let him have his say, for he has spoken a good thing. There will remain no good for you if you cannot tell us these things and there will remain no good for us if we cannot accept this from you."**[2]

Story 25: "You have two faults"

Hadhrat Umar τ once asked the people to inform him of any faults that he may have. This announcement caused a huge commotion amongst the people, but eventually someone stood up and said, "You have two faults." "May Allaah have mercy on you," Hadhrat Umar τ said, "What are they?" The person said that the faults were that Hadhrat Umar τ possessed two upper garments, one which he wore and the other which he kept aside. The other fault was that he ate varieties of food whereas other people were unable to afford this. When he heard this, Hadhrat Umar τ exclaimed, **"By Allaah! I shall henceforth never own two upper garments and never eat two types of food." He then maintained this standard of living until he left this world.**[3]

Story 26: "I have no other clothing besides this"

The Masjid was full of people waiting for the Ameerul Mu'mineen to appear as they wondered what had delayed him. When he arrived a short while later and mounted the pulpit, he excused himself saying, **"I was busy washing this clothing that I a wearing and had no other clothing to wear."**[4]

---

[1] Deenowri, as quoted in *Muntakhab Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.4 Pg.417).
[2] *Muntakhab Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.4 Pg.418).
[3] Ibn Sa'd (Vol.3 Pg.293).
[4] Zuhd pg. 124.

Story 27: The Intelligence of Hadhrat Jareer τ

Hadhrat Umar τ was once in a room with Hadhrat Jareer bin Abdullaah τ (and others) when he smelt an odour (from someone who had passed wind). Hadhrat Umar τ said, "I command the person responsible for this odour to get up and perform wudhu." Hadhrat Jareer τ then said, **"O Ameerul Mu'mineen! Should everyone rather not perform wudhu (so that the one person is not embarrassed)?"** Hadhrat Umar τ praised him saying, "You were an excellent leader during the Period of Ignorance and now an excellent leader in Islaam."[1]

Story 28: "'If you stray, we shall straighten you"

When Hadhrat Umar bin Khattaab τ went to the pond of the Banu Haaritha, he met Hadhrat Muhammad bin Maslama τ there. Hadhrat Umar τ asked him, "What do you think of me?" Hadhrat Muhammad bin Maslama τ replied, "I swear by Allaah that in my opinion you are as I like to see you and as anyone who likes good likes to see you. I see that you are meticulous in collecting wealth, are also abstinent from it and distribute it justly. **If however, you stray, we shall straighten you just as arrows are straightened with weights."** Hadhrat Umar τ then said, "Excellent! (You say,) 'If however, you stray, we shall straighten you just as arrows are straightened with weights'. **All praise belongs to Allaah who has placed me amongst people who will rectify me when I stray."**[2]

Story 29: "Appoint someone to decide the matter between us"

A dispute arose between Hadhrat Umar τ and Hadhrat Ubay bin Ka'b τ. Hadhrat Umar τ said, "Appoint someone to decide the matter between us." They then agreed to appoint Hadhrat Zaid bin Thaabit τ (to settle the matter) between them. When the two men came to Hadhrat Zaid τ, he made place at the head side of his bedding saying, "Sit here, O Ameerul Mu'mineen." Hadhrat Umar τ said, "That is the first wrong you have committed in your decision-making procedure. I shall rather sit with my contestant." The two men then sat in front of Hadhrat Zaid τ.

---

[1] Ibn Sa'd, as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.2 Pg.151).
[2] Ibn Mubaarak, as quoted in *Muntakhab Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.4 Pg.381).

Hadhrat Ubay τ made his claim and Hadhrat Umar τ refuted it. Hadhrat Zaid τ then said to Hadhrat Ubay τ, "Absolve the Ameerul Mu'mineen (from taking an oath, which is the next step of the procedure since no witnesses were presented). I would not have asked for this concession for anyone else besides the Ameerul Mu'mineen." However, **Hadhrat Umar τ still took the oath and then said, "Zaid will be unable to judge unless he treats Umar as a man from the ranks of the common Muslims."**[1]

Story 30: the Humility of Hadhrat Umar τ

When Hadhrat Umar τ was travelling to Shaam, Hadhrat Abu Ubaydah bin Jarraah τ was accompanying him. When they arrived at a point where they had to wade across, Hadhrat Umar τ alighted from his camel, removed his leather socks and threw them over his shoulders. He then took hold of the reins of the camel and waded through.

"O Ameerul Mu'mineen!" Hadhrat Abu Ubaydah τ said, "Are you doing that?! Do you also remove your leather socks, throw them over your shoulders, take hold of the reins of the camel and then wade through?! **I would not like the people of that city (where we are headed) to see you like this."**

"O, Oh!" Hadhrat Umar τ exclaimed, "Had anyone other than Abu Ubaydah made such a statement, I would have made him a lesson for the Ummah of Muhammad ρ. **We were once amongst the lowest of people, but Allaah gave us honour because of Islaam. As soon as we start to seek honour in avenues other than that in which Allaah has granted us honour, Allaah will then humiliate us."**[2]

Story 31: "O Umar! You are making matters extremely difficult for you successors"

Hadhrat Umar τ was once running through the narrow streets of Madinah when he met Hadhrat Ali τ. "What are you doing, O Ameerul Mu'mineen?" Hadhrat Ali τ asked. **"One of the camels given as zakaah has escaped?"** Hadhrat Umar τ replied. In surprise, **Hadhrat**

[1] Ibn Asaakir, Sa'eed bin Mansoor and Bayhaqi.
[2] Haakim (Vol.1 Pg.61). reporting from reliable sources as confirmed by Dhahabi.

Ali τ exclaimed, "O Umar! You are making matters extremely difficult for you successors (by personally following up on such matters)." However, Hadhrat Umar τ replied, "I swear by the Being Who has sent Muhammad ε with the truth that **Umar will be called to account even if a goat runs away to the banks of the Euphrates."**[1]

Story 32: The Virtue of Hadhrat Usaama bin Zaid τ

Even though the books of history are filled with the accounts of thousands of men, the name of Hadhrat Usaamah bin Zaid τ still resounds up to this day. When Hadhrat Umar τ fixed an allowance for his own son Abdullaah which was less than that which he fixed for Hadhrat Usaamah τ, Hadhrat Abdullaah τ approached his father and said, "You have fixed a sum of four thousand for Usaamah and only three thousand for me when his father was no higher in status than yourself and he is not higher in status than I am?" "Not at all!" Hadhrat Umar τ replied, **"His father was more beloved to Rasulullaah ρ than your father was and he was more beloved to Rasulullaah ρ than you were."** When he heard this, Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Umar τ was satisfied with the fixtures.[2]

Story 33: The Trustworthiness of Hadhrat Umar τ

When the personal treasures of the Emperor of Persia was brought before Hadhrat Umar τ, he remarked, "The people who delivered this must be extremely trustworthy!" To this, **Hadhrat Ali τ commented, "When you had adopted trustworthiness, so did everyone else."**[3]

Story 34: Hadhrat Umar τ kisses the head of Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Hudhaafa τ

Hadhrat Umar τ once dispatched and army to fight the Romans. With this army was a Sahabi ψ by the name of Hadhrat Abdullaah bin

---

[1] *Manaaqib Ameerul Mu'mineen* pg.146.
[2] Tabaqaat Kubra (Vol.4 Pg.61).
[3] Tabari (Vol.4 Pg.20).

Hudhaafa τ. However, he was taken prisoner and brought before the Roman Emperor. When the soldiers informed the emperor that Hadhrat Abdullaah τ was one of the companions of Rasulullaah ρ, the tyrant said, "I shall share my kingdom and my authority with you if you become a Christian." Hadhrat Abdullaah τ replied, "If you offer me your kingdom coupled with the kingdom of all the Arabs in exchange for leaving the Deen of Muhammad ρ for a duration equal to the blinking of an eye, I would still not do so." The emperor said, "I shall then have you killed." "Do as you please," said Hadhrat Abdullaah τ.

The emperor commanded his men to tie Hadhrat Abdullaah τ to a cross and then instructed his archers to shoot their arrows close to his hands and then close to his legs (without killing him) as the emperor continued telling him to forsake Islaam. However, Hadhrat Abdullaah τ kept refusing. The emperor then had him untied and commanded his men to fill a cauldron with water and bring it to a boil. Two Muslim prisoners were then brought and one of them was thrown into the cauldron. (After showing him this) The emperor again asked Hadhrat Abdullaah τ to become a Christian, but he again refused. The emperor then gave orders that Hadhrat Abdullaah τ should be thrown into the cauldron.

As Hadhrat Abdullaah τ was being led to the cauldron, he began weeping. When the emperor was informed about this, he thought that Hadhrat Abdullaah τ was frightened, so he called him back. Again he asked Hadhrat Abdullaah τ to become a Christian, but the offer was again refused. The emperor then asked, "Then what made you weep?" Hadhrat Abdullaah τ replied, "I wept when I thought to myself that once I am thrown into the fire, I will be killed instantly. I wish that I had as many lives as the hairs on my body so that each one could be given for the pleasure of Allaah."

The tyrant said, "Would you kiss my head in exchange for your freedom?" Hadhrat Abdullaah τ asked, "In exchange for all the prisoners?" The emperor agreed, "In exchange for all the prisoners." Hadhrat Abdullaah τ said to himself, "Although he is an enemy of Allaah, I do not mind kissing his head in exchange for my freedom as well as the freedom of all the Muslim prisoners." Hadhrat Abdullaah τ therefore drew closer and kissed his head, after which all the prisoners were handed over to him.

Hadhrat Abdullaah τ then brought them all back to Hadhrat Umar τ. When Hadhrat Umar τ was informed about the events, he said, "It is compulsory for every Muslim to kiss the head of Abdullaah bin Hudhaafa τ and I shall be the first." Hadhrat Umar τ then stood up and kissed his head (so that Hadhrat Abdullaah τ should forget the unpleasant experience of kissing the emperor's head).[1]

Story 35: A Soldier and his Share of the Booty

A man who was with Hadhrat Abu Moosa Ash'ari τ (in a battle) and they managed to gain a large booty. Although Hadhrat Abu Moosa Ash'ari τ gave the man some share of the booty, it was not the complete share. The man refused to accept anything less than his complete share. Hadhrat Abu Moosa Ash'ari τ then gave the man twenty lashes and shaved off his hair. The man collected his hair and went to Hadhrat Umar τ. He then took out the hair from his pocket and thrust it on Hadhrat Umar τ's chest. "What is the matter?" asked Hadhrat Umar τ. After the man recounted the incident to Hadhrat Umar τ, the Khalifah wrote a letter to Hadhrat Abu Moosa Ash'ari τ. After greeting Hadhrat Abu Moosa Ash'ari τ, Hadhrat Umar τ wrote the name of the person who had informed him of the incident and also wrote the details of what he heard. Thereafter, he wrote:

"I order you in the name of Allaah that if you had carried out the act in public, you should sit in public and allow him to have his revenge from you. If you had done so in private, then you should sit in private and allow him to have his revenge."

When this letter reached Hadhrat Abu Moosa Ash'ari τ, he sat down for the man to take his revenge, but the man said, "I have forgiven him for the pleasure of Allaah."[2]

Story 36: A Fleeing King

When the King of Ghassaan by the name of Jabalah bin Ayham decided to accept Islaam, he came to see Hadhrat Umar τ with royal pomp and splendour. Hadhrat Umar τ welcomed him and gave him a high position

---

[1] Bayhaqi and Ibn Asaakir as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.7 Pg.62). *Isaaba* (Vol.2 Pg.297) contains commentary on the chain of narrators.
[2] Bayhaqi, as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.7 Pg.299).

to sit. Jabalah was one day performing Tawaaf when a Bedouin happened to step on his lower garment. Jabalah gave the man a slap.

The man hastened to the Ameerul Mu'mineen and laid a complaint against Jabalah. Hadhrat Umar τ summoned Jabalah and ruled that the man have his revenge taken. **"Can you not distinguished between a king and a common man?"** Jabalah said with haughtiness. Hadhrat Umar τ replied, **"Islaam has made the two of you equal."** "I shall then revert to Christianity!" Jabalah exclaimed. "I shall then have you executed!" Hadhrat Umar τ responded. When he saw that Hadhrat Umar τ was serious, Jabalah sought leave for a day, but then stealthily made his way off to join Heraclius in Constantinople.[1]

Story 37: "Congratulate your friend on the birth of a son"

During his term as the Khalifah, Ameerul Mu'mineen Hadhrat Umar τ used to patrol the streets and suburbs of Madinah himself during the night to keep a watch. During one of his night patrols, he noticed a tent made of animal hairs pitched in an open space. He had never seen this particular tent before, so he approached it. There he found man sitting outside while groans came from inside the tent. Hadhrat Umar τ greeted the stranger with Salaam and sat down beside him.

"Where are you from?" Hadhrat Umar τ asked him. The person replied, "I am from the desert and a stranger to this place. I have come to request the Ameerul Mu'mineen for some help in my need." "Who is groaning inside the tent?" Hadhrat Umar τ asked politely. "Please mind your own business," the man objected. "Do tell me please," Hadhrat Umar τ insisted, "I may be of help to you." The man reluctantly replied, saying, "If you must know, it is my wife groaning with labour pains." "Is there anybody to attend to her?" Hadhrat Umar τ asked. When the man informed him that there was no one, **Hadhrat Umar τ hurried home and said to his wife Hadhrat Ummu Kulthoom τ,** saying, "Allaah has decreed for you an opportunity to receive great rewards!"

"What is it, O Ameerul Mu'mineen?" she asked. Hadhrat Umar τ replied, "There is a poor woman of the desert in labour pains with none to attend her." "I am prepared to attend her if it pleases you," she

[1] *Lan Talqaa Mithla Umar* (Vol.2 Pg.297).

responded. **How could she not be prepared to assist when she was after all the daughter of Rasulullaah ρ's daughter Hadhrat Faatimah رضي الله عنها.**

"Then do hurry," Hadhrat Umar τ pleaded, "Take a pan along with some butter, provisions and other things needed during the child birth." Hadhrat Ummu Kulthoom رضي الله عنها did as she was told and left for the place where the tent was pitched. Hadhrat Umar τ followed close by and as she entered the tent, he busied himself with making a fire and cooking something for the couple to eat. After a while, Hadhrat Ummu Kulthoom رضي الله عنها called out from inside the tent, saying, "O Ameerul Mu'mineen! Congratulate your friend on the birth of a son." The man was embarrassed when he heard the title of Ameerul Mu'mineen and only then realised who the person was who was serving him. However, Hadhrat Umar τ put him at ease by saying, "That is all right. There is nothing to worry about."

Hadhrat Umar τ then placed the pan near the tent and asked his wife to feed the woman. Once she had fed the lady and returned the pan, Hadhrat Umar τ asked the Bedouin to eat some food since he had been awake all night. Having rendered this service, Hadhrat Umar τ then returned home with his wife, telling the person, "Come to me tomorrow and I shall see what I can do for you."[1]

Story 38: The Old man who Repented

Hadhrat Suddi reports that Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood τ was with Hadhrat Umar τ when he saw the light of a fire during the dead of night. Following the light, Hadhrat Umar τ entered a house lit by a lantern. There they discovered an old man sitting with some drink and a slave girl who was singing for him. The man perceived nothing until Hadhrat Umar τ confronted him. Hadhrat Umar τ exclaimed, "To this night, I have never seen a sight uglier than this old man waiting for his death (in such sin)!" The old man lifted his gaze and said, "Quite in order, O Ameerul Mu'mineen! But what you have done is even uglier.

[1] Manaaqib of Ibn Jowzi رحمه الله pg.85.

You have been spying when Allaah has forbidden it and you have entered without permission."

"You are right," Hadhrat Umar τ admitted. As he left biting his garment and weeping, he said, "Umar's mother may well have lost him if his Rabb does not forgive him. This old man thought that he was hiding himself from his family but will now continue sinning saying that Umar has already seen me (what more have I to lose)." The old man then stayed away from Hadhrat Umar τ's gatherings for a while.

Hadhrat Umar τ was one day sitting in a gathering when the old man came discreetly and sat amongst the people at the back. Seeing him arrive, Hadhrat Umar τ sent someone to summon him. When the person told the old man that Hadhrat Umar τ was calling for him, the old man expected that Hadhrat Umar τ would now punish him for what he had seen him do. "Come closer to me," Hadhrat Umar τ bade the old man. Hadhrat Umar τ then kept calling him closer until he seated him right beside him. "Bring your ear closer to me," Hadhrat Umar τ told the old man. Hadhrat Umar τ then whispered in his ear saying, "Listen! I swear by the Being Who has sent Muhammad ρ as a Rasul-messenger with the truth that neither I nor Ibn Mas'ood who was with me have informed a soul about what we had seen you doing."

The old man then said to Hadhrat Umar τ "O Ameerul Mu'mineen! Bring your ear closer to me". He then whispered in Hadhrat Umar τ's ear saying, "Listen! I swear by the Being Who has sent Muhammad ρ as a Rasul-messenger with the truth that to the time that I have come to this gathering, I have never repeated myself." Hadhrat Umar τ then raised his voice saying, "Allaahu Akbar!" and none present there had any idea why he had done so.[1]

Story 39: "Let us go to his house"

When Hadhrat Umar τ did not see one of his companions for some time, he told Hadhrat Abdur Rahmaan bin Auf τ to accompany him to the man's house to see what had happened to him. When they approached the house, they found the door open. The man was sitting there and his wife was busy pouring something in his cup and giving it to him. Hadhrat Umar τ said to Hadhrat Abdur Rahmaan bin Auf τ,

---

[1] Abu Sheikh, as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.2 Pg.141).

"This is what had been keeping him away from us. Hadhrat Abdur Rahmaan τ asked, "How will you know what is in the cup?" Hadhrat Umar τ said, "I fear that this may be spying." "But it is spying," Hadhrat Abdur Rahmaan τ confirmed. "What is the way to repent for this?" Hadhrat Umar τ asked. Hadhrat Abdur Rahmaan τ replied, "Do not inform him what has been learnt about his affairs and maintain only good thoughts about him." The two men then left.[1]

Story 40: Hadhrat Umar τ scales a wall

Hadhrat Umar τ was patrolling Madinah one night when he heard a man singing in his house. Hadhrat Umar τ scaled the wall of the house and confronted the man saying, "O enemy of Allaah! Do you think that Allaah will conceal your wrongs when you disobey Him?" The man replied, "Do not be hasty, O Ameerul Mu'mineen! While I may have disobeyed Allaah in one respect, you have disobeyed on three counts. While Allaah declares [وَ لَا تَجَسَّسُوا] **'Do not spy'**[2], you have spied. While Allaah says [وَأْتُواْ الْبُيُوتَ مِنْ أَبْوَابِهَا] ' **'Enter your homes from their *(front)* doors'**[3], you have scaled the wall to get to me and have done so without permission whereas Allaah states:

لَا تَدْخُلُوا بُيُوتًا غَيْرَ بُيُوتِكُمْ حَتَّى تَسْتَأْنِسُوا وَتُسَلِّمُوا عَلَى أَهْلِهَا

Do not enter any home besides your own until you have acquired permission *(to enter from those inside)* **and** *(until you have)* **greeted the inhabitants.** {Surah Noor, verse 27}

Hadhrat Umar τ submitted, "Will you employ the good in you if I overlook what you have been doing?" "Certainly," the man replied. Hadhrat Umar τ then pardoned the man, leaving the house and the man alone.[4]

Story 41: An Immoral Man

---

[1] Ibn Mundhir and Sa'eed bin Mansoor, as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.2 Pg.167).
[2] Surah Hujuraat, verse 12.
[3] Surah Baqara, verse 189.
[4] Kharaa'iti, as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.2 Pg.167).

It was late one night during his patrols that Hadhrat Umar τ a woman's voice recited some couplets which meant:

"If only I could have some wine to drink
If only I could have Nasr bin Hajjaaj
He is a youth whose youthfulness flourishes
Slender and noble who does not argue"

It angered Hadhrat Umar τ to learn that women were lusting after Nasr bin Hajjaaj so he had him brought before him the following day. **Hadhrat Umar τ had Nasr's hair shaved off, a turban placed upon his head and said to him, "I do not want you living in a town where I live!" he was then sent to Basrah.**

Fearing for herself, the woman whom Hadhrat Umar τ overheard sent a few couplet to him, which meant:

"Convey the message to the Ameer to fear anger
For I have nothing to do with wine and Nasr bin Hajjaaj"

Hadhrat Umar τ replied to her message by informing her that it was not on account of her words that Nasr bin Hajjaaj was banished, **but because he had learnt that Nasr was seeing many women and could not be trusted.**[1]

Story 42: "What answer will you give your Rabb tomorrow on the Day of Qiyaamah?"

Hadhrat Umar was once busy with some important work when a person came to him to request justice from someone who had behaved unjustly towards him. Hadhrat Umar τ struck him with his whip and said, "You do not come when I sit for this purpose, but when I am engaged in other work you come to ask me to have justice taken from people!"

The person then left, but Hadhrat Umar τ sent for him. Handing his whip over to him, **Hadhrat Umar τ said, "You now whip me to make matters even."** The man, however, said, "I forgive you for the sake of Allaah." Hadhrat Umar τ then went home, performed two

[1] Ibn Sa'd (Vol.1 Pg.205).

Rakaahs salaah in repentance and addressed himself, saying, "O Umar! You were low but Allaah elevated you. You were astray but Allaah guided you. You were humiliated but Allaah gave you honour and then granted you rule over His people. Now when one of them comes and asks you for justice to be done after he had been wronged, you beat him instead? What answer will you give your Rabb tomorrow on the Day of Qiyaamah?" He then kept on scolding himself in this manner for a very long time.[1]

Story 43: A Letter to the Nile

After Egypt was conquered (by the Muslims), the people approached the governor Hadhrat Amr bin Al Aas τ when the month of *Bu'na*[2] started. "O governor!," they said, "There is a ritual (we carry out) for our Nile without which it will not flow." "What is the ritual?" Hadhrat Amr τ enquired. They then explained, **"After twelve days of this month have passed, we look for a virgin living with her parents.** After satisfying her parents (with a vast sum of money), we adorn her with the best of jewels and clothing and then throw her into the Nile." "This cannot happen in Islaam," Hadhrat Amr τ told them, **"Islaam wipes out all (rituals) that takes place before it."**

It so happened that the Nile did not flow and although the people stayed in Egypt all through the month of *Bu'na*, they eventually decided to leave Egypt. Hadhrat Amr τ wrote a letter to Hadhrat Umar τ and informed him about the situation. Hadhrat Umar τ wrote back to Hadhrat Amr τ saying, "Your course of action was correct. I have enclosed a note with this letter that you should throw into the Nile…" The narration continues further and will be narrated in the chapter discussing unseen assistance from Allaah. The end of the narration states that the note was thrown into the Nile and on the following morning which was a Saturday, **the people found that the Nile was already flowing sixteen arm's length high in a single night.** In this manner, Allaah cut out the Egyptian ritual to this day.[3]

---

[1] *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.12 Pg.671).
[2] A month in their Egyptian calendar.
[3] Laalkaa'ee in his *Sunnah*, as quoted in *Tafseer* of Ibn Katheer (Vol.3 Pg.464).

Story 44: Hadhrat Umar τ seeks assistance from Egypt

A severe drought afflicted the people of Madinah during the Khilaafah of Hadhrat Umar τ, in what was called the Year of Ashes. Hadhrat Umar τ wrote the following letter to Hadhrat Amr bin Al Aas τ in Egypt.

"From the servant of Allaah the Ameerul Mu'mineen
To the sinful son of Aas

Salaams to you. O Amr! I swear by my life that while you and those with you are eating to your fill you seem to have no concern for my companions and I who are on the verge of destruction. Do assist! Do assist!"

Hadhrat Amr bin Al Aas τ sent the following reply:

"To the servant of Allaah Ameerul Mu'mineen
From Amr bin Al Aas

I am at your service! I am at your service! **I have dispatched (a train of) camels, the first of which will be by you when the last will still be here with me.** Peace be on you as well as Allaah's mercy and blessings."

Hadhrat Amr bin Al Aas τ then sent a train of camels so large that when the first camel reached Madinah, the last camel was still leaving Egypt. When the camels arrived, Hadhrat Umar τ generously distributed it amongst the people. He gave every household in Madinah a camel with all the food it carried. He appointed Hadhrat Abdur Rahmaan bin Auf τ, Hadhrat Zubayr bin Awwaam τ and Hadhrat Sa'd bin Abi Waqqaas τ to distribute amongst the people. They then gave every household a camel with all the food it carried so that they may eat the food and slaughter the camel to eat the meat, use the fat for cooking, make shoes from the hide and use the satchels for purpose they desired, such as making quilts, etc. As a result of this generosity, Allaah extended further generosity to the people (and sent abundant rains).[1]

---

[1] Ibn Abdil Hakam, as quoted in

Story 45: Hadhrat Umar τ and the Army of Hadhrat Usaamah bin Zaid τ

Before he passed away, Rasulullaah ρ formed an army comprising of the people of Madinah and surrounding areas. Included in this army was Hadhrat Umar τ. Rasulullaah ρ appointed Hadhrat Usaama bin Zaid τ as the Ameer of this army. The last man of the army had not yet passed by the trench when Rasulullaah ρ passed away. Hadhrat Usaama τ halted the army and said to Hadhrat Umar τ, "Request the Khalifah of Rasulullaah ρ to permit me to return the army to Madinah for I have with me the noblest and leading Sahabah ψ and I fear that the Mushrikeen may attack the Khalifah and the families of Rasulullaah ρ and the Muslims." Some of the Ansaar said to Hadhrat Umar τ that if Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ is determined to dispatch the army, he should convey the message from them that an Ameer who is older than Hadhrat Usaama τ should be appointed.

Upon the instruction of Hadhrat Usaama τ, Hadhrat Umar τ proceeded to Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ and informed him about what Hadhrat Usaama τ had said. **Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ said, "I would not reveres a decision that Rasulullaah ρ made even if wild dogs and wolves were to snatch away my body."** Hadhrat Umar τ then said, "The Ansaar have requested me to convey the message that they want you to appoint an Ameer over them who is elder than Usaama." Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ had been sitting, but (when he heard this, he) sprang up and **grabbed hold of the beard of Hadhrat Umar τ.** He then said, **"May your mother lose you, O son of Khattaab! You are asking me to relieve him of a post to which Rasulullaah ρ appointed him?!"** When Hadhrat Umar τ returned and the people asked him what had happened, he said, "March on. May your mothers lose you because of what I have suffered today at the hands of the Khalifah of Rasulullaah ρ on your behalf."[1]

Story 46: Hadhrat Suraaqah bin Maalik τ wears the Crown of the Kisra

[1] *Taareekh Dimishq* (Vol.1 Pg.171).

Hadhrat Suraaqah bin Maalik τ was on the heels of Rasulullaah ρ and Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ to capture them while they emigrated to Madinah, but his eyes opened to the truth of Islaam when he saw the miracles of Rasulullaah ρ. He declared, "I am now convinced that your religion will prosper and that you will have an elevated position. Will you give me an undertaking in writing that I will receive due respect when I arrive in your country?" **Rasulullaah ρ instructed Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ to write such an undertaking on a flat bone.** Rasulullaah ρ then said, "O Suraaqah! What will be your condition when you are given the bracelet of the Kisra to wear?"

Hadhrat Suraaqah τ later accepted Islaam at the hand of Rasulullaah ρ and when the Battle of Qaadisiyyah was won by the Muslims, they received a large booty, which included the treasures of the Kisra.

When the crown of the Kisra was brought before Hadhrat Umar τ, he placed it before him (together with other crown jewels). Amongst the people was Hadhrat Suraaqa τ. Hadhrat Umar τ threw to him the two bracelets of Kisra bin Hurmuz and when he put them on, they reached up to his shoulders. Seeing the bracelets on Hadhrat Suraaqa τ's arms, Hadhrat Umar τ exclaimed, "All praise is for Allaah! The bracelets of Kisra bin Hurmuz on the arms of Suraaqa bin Maalik bin Ju'shum a Bedouin from the Banu Mudlaj tribe! O Allaah! I know that Your Rasool ρ liked getting wealth only to spend it in Your path and on Your servants. However, You chose a better way and kept it away from him. O Allaah! I know that Abu Bakr τ also liked getting wealth only to spend it in Your path and on Your servants. However, You chose a better way and kept it away from him as well. (Now this wealth has come during my term as Khalifah) O Allaah! I seek Your protection that this should be a trap from You for Umar."

Story 47: The Inspiration of Hadhrat Umar τ

Hadhrat Umar τ was delivering a sermon, he suddenly called out, **"The mountain, O Saariyah, the mountain! The one who makes a wolf the shepherd of a flock has truly committed a grave injustice."** The people looked at each other in surprise, **but Hadhrat Ali τ assured them that Hadhrat Umar τ will surely have an explanation for what he had said.** When they questioned Hadhrat Umar τ after he had completed, he explained, "The vision flashed

through my mind that the Mushrikeen would defeat our brothers who were then passing by a mountain. If they turned towards the mountain (placing it at their backs), they would have to fight from one direction only (allowing them to win a victory). However, if they passed by the mountain, they would be destroyed (because they would have to fight the enemy from the direction of the mountain as well). What you claim to have heard me say is my response to that situation."

A month later, someone (from the Muslim army) came with the good news that they had heard Hadhrat Umar τ's voice that day, because of which they turned towards the mountain and were granted a victory by Allaah.[1]

Another narration states that the people asked Hadhrat Ali τ, "Did you hear Umar τ say, 'O Saariyah!' while he was delivering the lecture on the pulpit?" "Shame on you people!" **Hadhrat Ali τ said, "Leave Umar alone because he always has a valid explanation for anything he does."**[2]

Story 48: "If only one Individual was to enter Jannah"

Hadhrat Umar τ once said, "If it be announced on the Day of Qiyaamah that all except one individual shall go to Jahannam, my expectation of the mercy of Allaah would make me hope that I would be that chosen one. Again, if it be announced on that day that all except one individual shall go to Jannah then my sins would make me fear that I may be that condemned one."

Story 49: The Miracle of Hadhrat Umar τ

When a severe drought afflicted the people during the time of Hadhrat Umar τ, he took them out of the town and led them in two Rakaahs

[1] Ibn Mardway, as quoted in *Isaabah* (Vol.2 Pg.3). Abu Nu'aym in his *Dalaa'il* (Pg.210) and Abu Abdur Rahmaan Sulamiin his *Arba'een* have reported a similar narration.
[2] Khateeb and Ibn Asaakir, as quoted in *Muntakhab Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.4 Pg.386). Allaama Ibn Katheer has commented on the authenticity of the narration in his *Al Bidaayah wan Nihaayah* (Vol.7 Pg.131).

salaah. Thereafter, he overturned his shawl, bringing the right side on the left and vice versa. He then stretched out his arms and made du'aa saying, "O Allaah! We beg Your forgiveness and ask You to send us rain." Hadhrat Umar τ had not yet moved from his place when rain started to fall. Some days later, some Bedouins arrived (in Madinah). They went to Hadhrat Umar τ and explained that they were in their valley on a certain day and at a certain time when some clouds covered them and they heard a voice from the cloud say to them, "O Abu Hafs (Hadhrat Umar τ)! Help has come to you. O Abu Hafs! Help has come to you."[1]

Story 50: "Were you searching for faults in Umar"

That Hadhrat Talha τ once spotted Hadhrat Umar τ coming out (of his house) late at night. Hadhrat Umar τ entered a house and then another house. The following morning, Hadhrat Talha τ went to the house, where he found an old woman who was blind and crippled. Hadhrat Talha τ asked her, "Why does that man come to you?" **She then informed Hadhrat Talha τ that Hadhrat Umar τ had been frequently coming to her for many years to see to her needs and remove all the filth from her house.** Hadhrat Talha τ then said to himself, "Shame on you, O Talha! Were you searching for faults in Umar?!"[2]

Story 51: The blessings of the Du'aa of Hadhrat Umar τ

Hadhrat Umar τ once enquired about a particular person and was informed that he was a habitual drinker. Hadhrat Umar τ then got his scribe to write to the man saying, "For the bounties He has bestowed I praise that Allaah who is **The Forgiver of sins, Acceptor of repentance, Severe** *(quick and firm)* **in punishment, and All Powerful. There is no Ilaah but Him, and all** *(creation)* **shall return to Him** *(after death)*."[3] Hadhrat Umar τ then told the people around him to pray that the man turns his attention to Allaah and that Allaah accepts his repentance.

---

[1] Ibn Abi Dunya nd Ibn Asaakir, as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.4 Pg.290).
[2] Abu Nu'aym in his *Hilya* (Vol.1 Pg.48).
[3] Surah Mu'min, verse 3.

When the letter reached the man, he repeated the words "**The Forgiver of sins, Acceptor of repentance, Severe** *(quick and firm)* **in punishment**" over and over again and wept so much that his beard was drenched. **By the blessings of the du'aa of Hadhrat Umar τ, he then forsook drinking altogether.**[1]

Story 52: "Tend to your home because it has burnt down"

Hadhrat Umar τ once met a man on the roadside whose hair was dishevelled and was so exhausted that his cheekbones protruded. When Hadhrat Umar τ asked his name, he replied, "Jamarah (charcoal)". When Hadhrat Umar τ asked his father's name, he replied, "Shihaab (flame)". When Hadhrat Umar τ asked his tribe's name, he replied, "Haraqah (burning), which was a tribe of the Ammaan". When Hadhrat Umar τ asked where he lived, he replied that he lived close to Madinah in a region called Harratun Naar (the heat of fire). When Hadhrat Umar τ asked which part of the region he lived in, he replied, "Dhaatut Tay (smouldering fire)". Hadhrat Umar τ then aid to him, "You had better tend to your home because it has burnt down." When the man returned, he found that Hadhrat Umar τ was right.[2]

Story 53: Hadhrat Umar τ and a Monk

Hadhrat Umar τ once passed by a monk and remained standing there. Someone called the monk and told him that the Ameerul Mu'mineen was there. When the monk peeped out, the effects of difficulty, exertion and forsaking the world were clearly apparent on his face (he had grown extremely pale and haggard on account of his spiritual exertions). Looking at him, Hadhrat Umar τ began to weep. "But he is a Christian," someone commented. Hadhrat Umar τ replied, "I know, but I feel sorry for him because I thought of the verse in which Allaah mentions:

عَامِلَةٌ نَّاصِبَةٌ * تَصْلَى نَارًا حَامِيَةً

---

[1] Ibn Katheer (Vol.4 Pg.70).
[2] *Manaaqib Ameerul Mu'mineen* pg.74.

He who suffered affliction and who endured many difficulties *(thinking that he was pleasing Allaah whereas his beliefs and actions did not conform with the injunctions of Allaah)***.** **He shall enter the blazing fire.** {Surah Ghaashiya, verses 3,4}

I feel sorry for him because despite his exertion and efforts in this world, he shall still end up in Jahannam."[1]

Story 54: Hadhrat Umar τ is Ill for a Month

Hadhrat Umar τ was once patrolling the streets at night when he overheard an Ansaari reciting the following verses in his salaah, "**By the oath of Mount Toor (the mountain where Allaah addressed Moosa υ) and the written book (the record of every person's actions) which is in an open manuscript (to be made available for reading on the Day of Qiyaamah). And (by the oath of) the "Baytul Ma'moor" ("The Frequently Visited House", referring to the place in the heavens directly above the Kabah where the angels make Tawaaf) and (by the oath of) the raised roof (the sky) and (by the oath of) the brimming ocean. Indeed, the punishment of your Rabb shall take place (on the Day of Qiyaamah). There shall be none to avert it**."

Hadhrat Umar τ exclaimed, "By the Rabb of the Kabah! This is the truth!" He dismounted his donkey and stood motionless against the wall for a while. Upon his return home he fell ill and people visited him there for a month without anyone being able to understand his illness.[2]

Story 55: Hadhrat Umar τ and Hurmuzaan

When the Persian King Hurmuzaan was brought as captive before Hadhrat Umar τ and asked to have his say, he asked, "Should I speak like a living person or like a dead man?" "Speak like the living," Hadhrat Umar τreplied. Hurmuzaan then said, "We were people of pomp and splendour, while you people languished in ignorance. Neither did we have a religion, nor did you. In fact, we regarded you as worthy of being shunned like dogs. Then when Allaah gave you honour through Islaam and sent His Nabi ρ to you, we opted not to follow you."

"You have the audacity to speak like this when you are our captive!" Hadhrat Umar τ exclaimed, "Execute him!" Hurmuzaan interrupted, "But your Nabi ρ has instructed you not to kill anyone whom you have

---

[1] Bayhaqi, Ibn Mundhir and Haakim as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.1 Pg.175).
[2] Manaaqib pg. 88.

granted amnesty.” “When did you receive amnesty?” Hadhrat Umar τ asked. Hurmuzaan replied, “You just told me to speak like the living and no person can be considered part of the living when he fears that his death is imminent.” Hadhrat Umar τ then said, “He has taken amnesty from me without me even knowing it.”[1] Hurmuzaan later became a Muslim.

Story 56: A Wretched Jew

When Hadhrat Umar τ once arrived in Shaam, a man belonging to the Ahlul Kitaab said to him, "O Ameerul Mu'mineen! A man from amongst the Mu'mineen did this to me." The man's head was cut and he had been beaten. Hadhrat Umar τ became extremely angry and then said to Hadhrat Suhayb τ, "Go and investigate who is responsible for this and then bring the culprit to me." Hadhrat Suhayb τ proceeded and discovered that the person responsible was Hadhrat Awf bin Maalik Ashja'ee τ. Hadhrat Suhayb τ said to Hadhrat Awf bin Maalik τ, "The Ameerul Mu'mineen is extremely angry with you. Bring along Mu'aadh bin Jabal τ to speak to him because I fear that he will be very hasty in deciding your matter."

After Hadhrat Umar τ had completed his salaah, he called for Hadhrat Suhayb τ and asked him whether he had brought the person. "Yes," replied Hadhrat Suhayb τ. In the meanwhile, Hadhrat Awf bin Maalik τ had already approached Hadhrat Mu'aadh τ and narrated the incident to him. Hadhrat Mu'aadh τ then stood up and said, "O Ameerul Mu'mineen! The man is Awf bin Maalik τ. Please give him a hearing and do not be hasty with him." (Turning to Hadhrat Awf bin Maalik τ) Hadhrat Umar τ asked, "What has happened between you and this person?" Hadhrat Awf bin Maalik τ said, "O Ameerul Mu'mineen! I saw this man pushing along the donkey of a Muslim woman. He then poked the donkey so that it should throw her off, but it did not. He then pushed the donkey and it dropped her. **Thereafter, he fell on to her (and raped her. Unable to bear this, I then hit him)."**

Hadhrat Umar τ said, "Bring the woman to me so that she may confirm what you said." When Hadhrat Awf bin Maalik τ went to her, her father and her husband said, "What do you want with our woman? You have already disgraced us (by relating the story)." However, the woman

---

[1] *Al Bidaayah wan Nihaayah* (Vol.7 Pg.87).

said, "By Allaah! I shall definitely go with him!" Her father and husband then said, "We shall rather go and relate the incident on your behalf." The two men then went to Hadhrat Umar τ and related the story just as Hadhrat Awf bin Maalik τ had. **Hadhrat Umar τ then had the Jew crucified and said (to the Jewish population),** "This (type of behaviour) was not amongst the clauses of our treaty with you." He then said, "O people! Fear Allaah with regard to those under the guardianship of Muhammad ε (the Dhimmis). **However, there shall be no guardianship for those of them who do this (who rape Muslim women)."**

Hadhrat Suwayd says that the Jew was the first person he had seen crucified in Islaam.[1]

Story 57: Hadhrat Umar τ Redresses Injustice

An Egyptian man once came to Hadhrat Umar bin Khattaab τ and said, "O Ameerul Mu'mineen! I have come to seek refuge with you from oppression." Hadhrat Umar τ replied, "You have sought refuge with one who will certainly grant it." The man said, "I had a race with the son of Amr bin Al Aas τ and I beat him. He then started whipping me as he said, 'I am the son of honourable men!'" Hadhrat Umar τ then wrote to Hadhrat Amr bin Al Aas τ instructing him to come (to Madinah) with his son.

When they arrived, Hadhrat Umar τ called for the Egyptian and (when he came) said, "Take this whip and hit." As the Egyptian whipped the son of Hadhrat Amr bin Al Aas τ, Hadhrat Umar τ said, "Whip the son of disgraceful people!" Hadhrat Anas τ says, "By Allaah! The man whipped well just as we liked him to do and then stopped whipping just when we felt that he should stop." Hadhrat Umar τ then said to the Egyptian, "Now put a lash across Amr's head." (Hadhrat Umar τ wanted to caution Hadhrat Amr τ for not teaching his son well enough) The Egyptian said, "O Ameerul Mu'mineen! It was his son who hit me and I have already had my revenge." Hadhrat Umar τ then said to Hadhrat Amr bin Al Aas τ, "Since when have you been enslaving people when their mothers had given birth to them as free people." Hadhrat Amr bin

---

[1] Abu Ubayd, Bayhaqi and Ibn Asaakir, as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.2 Pg.299). Tabraani has reported a similar narration in brief from Hadhrat Awf bin Maalik τ. He has narrated from reliable sources, as confirmed by *Haythami* (Vol.6 Pg.13).

Al Aas τ pleaded, "O Ameerul Mu'mineen! I did not know about this, neither did the man complain to me (otherwise I would have dealt with my son)."[1]

Story 58: "You are truly a just ruler, O Umar!"

The Roman emperor once sent an envoy to find out about Hadhrat Umar τ. When he reached Madinah, the envoy was surprised not to see any palace for the ruler of the Muslims and asked the people where their king was. "We have no king," the people relied, "but we do have a leader who is presently outside Madinah." **The envoy went out on search of Hadhrat Umar τ and found him lying asleep upon the bare ground beneath the shade of a tree. He used his whip as a pillow and there were no guards about.** Astonished, the envoy said, "Here lies a man who is so feared by other rulers that they get no sleep, yet he is like this. **O Umar! You have certainly established justice, because of which you can sleep so peacefully.** On the other hand, our ruler has perpetrated so much injustice that he is constantly in fear and cannot sleep at nights. I testify that your religion is true. Had I not been an envoy, I would have accepted Islaam immediately, but I now need to return and then accept Islaam."[2]

Story 59: Hadhrat Umar τ Kisses his son

That after Hadhrat Umar τ had appointed a man from the Banu Asad tribe as governor, **the man came to him to collect the certificate of appointment.** In the meantime, one of Hadhrat Umar τ's children was brought to him and he started kissing the child. The man from the Banu Asad tribe asked, "Do you kiss children, O Ameerul Mu'mineen? **By Allaah! I have never kissed a child to this day."** Hadhrat Umar τ then said, "In that case, I swear by Allaah that you will be even less compassionate towards people. **Give the certificate of appointment back. You should never act as governor for me ever again."** Hadhrat Umar τ then cancelled his appointment.[3]

---

[1] Ibn Abdul Hakam, as quoted in *Muntakhab Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.4 Pg.420).
[2] *Akhbaar Umar* pg.328.
[3] Bayhaqi (Vol.9 Pg.41) and Hannaad, as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.3 Pg.165).

Story 60: Hadhrat Umar τ punishes his son

Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Umar τ reports that his brother Abdur Rahmaan and Abu Saroo'ah both drank some wine while they were in Egypt during the Khilaafah of Hadhrat Umar τ. They were both intoxicated and the following morning they approached Hadhrat Amr bin Al Aas τ who was the Ameer of Egypt. They said to him, "Purify us (by imposing the penalty) because we had both become intoxicated with what we drank."

Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Umar τ says, "When my brother mentioned to me that he had become intoxicated, I said to him, 'Come into the house and I will purify you.' I did not know then that he had already been to Hadhrat Amr bin Al Aas τ. When my brother told me that he had already informed the Ameer of Egypt, I said, 'Your head will not be shaved in front of all the people today. Go into the house and I will myself shave your head.' **The practice of governors in those days was that they shaved the heads of criminals together with imposing the penalty.** The two men then entered the house. I shaved my brother's head with my own hand and then Hadhrat Amr τ had them lashed."

Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Umar τ continues, "When Hadhrat Umar τ heard about this, he wrote to Hadhrat Amr τ with instructions to send Abdur Rahmaan to him on a carriage. Hadhrat Amr τ complied and when Abdur Rahmaan reached (his father) Hadhrat Umar τ, **Hadhrat Umar τ lashed him and punished him further because of his relationship with him.** Hadhrat Umar τ then let him go and he lived hail and healthily for a month after which his predestination caught up with him and he passed away. Although people commonly believe that he died because of the lashing he received from Hadhrat Umar τ, it is evident that he did not die because of this lashing."[1]

Story 61: Rasulullaah ρ proposes for Hadhrat Hafsah رضي الله عنها

---

[1] Abdur Razzaaq and Bayhaqi, as quoted in *Muntakhab Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.4 Pg.422), narrating from reliable sources. Ibn Sa'd has also reported the narration in detail from Aslam who narrates from Hadhrat Amr bin Al Aas τ, as quoted in *Muntakhab Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.4 Pg.420).

Hadhrat Umar τ narrates, "My daughter Hafsah was widowed when her husband Khunays bin Hudhaafah Sahmi τ passed away in Madinah. He was a companion of Rasulullaah ρ who participated in the Battle of Badr. When I met Abu Bakr τ, I said, 'If you agree, I would like to get you married to Hafsah the daughter of Umar.' He however gave me no reply. It was only a few days later that Rasulullaah ρ proposed for her and I married her to Rasulullaah ρ. Abu Bakr τ met me thereafter and said, 'You may have been angry with me when you proposed that I marry Hafsah and I gave no reply?' When I confirmed that I was, he explained, 'The only thing that prevented me from giving you a reply was that I had heard Rasulullaah ρ make mention of (proposing for) her and I did not wish to reveal Rasulullaah ρ's secret. Had he not married her, I certainly would have.'"[1]

Story 62: An apostate

When Hadhrat Umar τ was given the news of the conquest of Tustar he asked if there were any recent developments. The people said, "Yes, O Ameerul Mu'mineen! A person who had become a Muslim, reverted back to kufr." "What did you do with him," asked Hadhrat Umar τ. "We called him and executed him," came the reply. Hadhrat Umar τ said, "Why did you rather not imprison him for three days, feed him bread each day and encourage him to repent? He may then have repented and re-entered Allaah's Deen. O Allaah! I was not present there. I did not command it and am not pleased with it now that it has come to my notice."[2]

Story 63: Austerity and Mercy

Hadhrat Ali τ, Hadhrat Uthmaan τ, Hadhrat Zubayr τ, Hadhrat Talha τ, Hadhrat Abdur Rahmaan bin Auf τ and Hadhrat Sa'd τ once got together. Because Hadhrat Abdur Rahmaan bin Auf τ was the most at ease with Hadhrat Umar τ, the others said to him, "O Abdur Rahmaan! Why don't you speak to the Ameerul Mu'mineen on behalf of all the people and tell him that it often happens that a person in need approaches him for his need but then returns without having his need

---

[1] Abu Nu'aym in his *Hilya* (Vol.1 Pg.361). Ahmad, Ibn Sa'd, Bukhaari, Nasa'ee, Bayhaqi, Abu Ya'la and Ibn Hibbaan have also reported the narration with additions, as quoted in *Muntakhab Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.5 Pg.120).
[2] Maalik, Shaafi'ee, Abdur Razzaaq, Abu Ubayd in his *Ghareeb* and Bayhaqi (Pg.207).

tended to because his fear for the Ameerul Mu'mineen prevents him from presenting his case."

Hadhrat Abdur Rahmaan bin Auf τ then went to Hadhrat Umar τ and addressed him saying, "O Ameerul Mu'mineen! Do be more lenient towards the people because it often happens that a person in need approaches you for his need but then returns without having his need tended to because his fear for you prevents him from presenting his case." Hadhrat Umar τ said, "O Abdur Rahmaan! I want you to swear in the name of Allaah whether or not it was Ali, Uthmaan, Talha, Zubayr and Sa'd who asked you to speak to me." Hadhrat Abdur Rahmaan bin Auf τ replied, "I swear by Allaah that it was certainly them." Hadhrat Umar τ then said, "O Abdur Rahmaan! I swear by Allaah that I had been so lenient with the people that I began to fear (the wrath of) Allaah because of my leniency. Thereafter, I was so stern with the people that I began to fear (the wrath of) Allaah because of my sternness. What course is there now available for me?"

Hadhrat Abdur Rahmaan bin Auf τ stood up weeping and dragged along his shawl as he said, "Oh dear! What will become of the people after you have gone! Oh dear! What will become of the people after you have gone!"[1]

Story 64: Hadhrat Umar τ subdues his anger

When Hadhrat Uyaynah bin Hisn (bin Hudhayfah) bin Badr τ arrived (in Madinah), he stayed with his nephew Hadhrat Hurr bin Qais τ who happened to be amongst those that Hadhrat Umar τ kept close to him. It was only the learned ones whom Hadhrat Umar τ kept in his company and with whom he consulted, regardless of whether they were young or old. Hadhrat Uyaynah τ said to his nephew, "Dear nephew! **Since you have some status in the eyes of the Ameer, please secure permission for me to see him."** When Hadhrat Umar τ granted permission, Hadhrat Uyaynah τ called out, "Hey son of Khattaab! By Allaah! Neither do you give us much nor do you rule us with justice!" This outburst made Hadhrat Umar τ so angry that he was

[1] Ibn Sa'd (Vol.3 Pg.206) and Ibn Asaakir.

close to assaulting Hadhrat Uyaynah τ. Hadhrat Hurr τ then intervened saying, "O Ameerul Mu'mineen! Allaah had mentioned to His Nabi ρ:

خُذِ الْعَفْوَ وَأْمُرْ بِالْعُرْفِ وَأَعْرِضْ عَنِ الْجَاهِلِينَ

Adopt forgiveness, instruct *(others to do)* **what is right and ignore the ignorant ones** *(because it is futile to argue with them)*. {Surah A'raaf, verse 199}

This man is certainly from amongst the ignorant ones."

The narrator says, "By Allaah! When this verse was recited to him, Hadhrat Umar τ did not do a thing. **It was his noble trait to immediately forsake anything for the instruction of the Qur'aan."**[1]

Story 65: Hadhrat Umar τ mentioned in the Previous Scriptures

Hadhrat Umar τ once passed by a priest who was studying his books. "Have I been mentioned in your scriptures?" Hadhrat Umar τ asked him. The priest replied, **"Although your name is not mentioned, your description and actions are?"** When Hadhrat Umar τ asked what the description was, the priest replied, **"An iron horn."** "What is the iron horn?" Hadhrat Umar τ asked. **"It refers to a strict ruler,"** the priest replied. Hadhrat Umar τ then exclaimed in jubilation, "Allaahu Akbar! Alhamdu Lillaah!"[2]

Story 66: The Awe that Hadhrat Umar τ Inspired in People

Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Abbaas τ reports that he had wanted to ask Hadhrat Umar τ about a verse of the Qur'aan, **but could not do so for an entire year because of the awe that Hadhrat Umar τ inspired within him.** Eventually when Hadhrat Umar τ left for Hajj, Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Abbaas τ accompanied him. After Hadhrat Umar τ had relieved himself en route and returned, Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Abbaas τ

[1] Bukhaari, Ibn Mundhir, Ibn Abi Haatim, Ibn Mardway and Bayhaqi, as quoted in *Muntakhab Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.4 Pg.416).
[2] Abu Dawood 4656 and Ibn Abi Shaybah (Vol.2 Pg.30).

walked with him and asked him who the two wives of Rasulullaah ρ were who had displeased him with a scheme of theirs. Hadhrat Umar τ informed him that they were Hadhrat Aa'isha رضي الله عنها and Hadhrat Hafsah رضي الله عنها. Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Abbaas τ then told Hadhrat Umar τ that he had been unable to ask the question for an entire year because he had been too afraid.[1]

Story 67: Hadhrat Umar τ pays Blood Money

Hadhrat Umar τ once sent for a woman whose husband had gone missing. Hadhrat Umar τ objected to the fact that people used to frequently visit her. When she was summoned, it was said to her, "Respond to the call of Umar." She bemoaned, "Alas! I am destroyed! What does Umar want with me?!" (She was pregnant). As she was still on her way, she became so frightened that labour pains struck. She entered a house where the child was born. However, the child screamed only twice and then it died.

When Hadhrat Umar τ consulted with the Sahabah ψ **(he felt responsible for the death of the child who was born prematurely because the mother's fear for him),** some of them told him that nothing was due from him because he was after all the ruler and therefore had a right to reprimand people (summon them when they do wrong). Hadhrat Ali τ however, remained silent. Hadhrat Umar τ then turned to Hadhrat Ali τ and asked him what his opinion was. He said, "If they are speaking their opinions (without proof), then their opinions are wrong. If however, they are speaking from their baser desires, then they have not advised you well. I think that you are responsible for paying the Diyah (blood money) because it was you who frightened her. She miscarried the child because of you." Hadhrat Ali τ then instructed that payment of the blood money should be divided amongst the Quraysh, meaning that the money would be taken from the entire Quraysh tribe because the death was a mistake (not intentional).[2]

Story 68: A Scar Sustained in the path of Allaah

---

[1] Bukhaari 4629.

[2] Abdur Razzaaq and Bayhaqi, as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.7 Pg.300).

People were busy taking their gifts before Hadhrat Umar τ when he looked up and was surprised to see a man with a heinous scar on his face. Upon enquiry, the man informed Hadhrat Umar τ that he had sustained the wound in a battle in the path of Allaah. Hadhrat Umar τ then gave instructions that the man be given a thousand Dirhams. After the man the money was given, Hadhrat Umar τ turned the money over in his hands for a while and then said, "Give him another thousand." Another thousand Dirhams were handed over. This occurred four times (so that the amount totalled four thousand). Feeling embarrassed that he was being given so much, the man left. When Hadhrat Umar τ asked about him, the people informed him that they felt he had left out of the embarrassment of being given so much. Hadhrat Umar τ then said, "By Allaah! Had he stayed, I would have continued giving him until there was not a single Dirham left. This is because the sword-wound he sustained in the path of Allaah had left a black scar on his face."[1]

Story 69: "My husband has passed away"

Hadhrat Umar τ was once in the marketplace where he met a young lady who said, "O Ameerul Mu'mineen! My husband has passed away and has left behind small children. By Allaah! They do not even have hooves to cook (which the Arabs usually gave away free of charge) nor any plantation or any milk-giving animal. I fear that the drought may destroy them. I am the daughter of Khufaaf bin Eema Ghifaari τ and my father was with Rasulullaah ρ at Hudaybiyyah." Hadhrat Umar τ stood motionless awhile and then said, "Welcome to a close relative." He then went home where a fine pack camel was tied. He loaded the animal with two sacks filled with food and placed between the two some money and clothing. Thereafter, he handed the reins of the camel to the lady saying, "Take this away. Allaah shall provide for you before this is finished." **When someone commented that Hadhrat Umar τ had given her too much, Hadhrat Umar τ said, "May your mother lose you! Her father was at Hudaybiyyah with Rasulullaah ρ.** By Allaah! I saw her father and her brother lay siege to a fortress for a long time and then conquer it. We then received large shares from the booty earned from it. (She therefore deserves the large amount that I gave her)."[2]

---

[1] Abu Nu'aym in his *Hilya* (Vol.3 Pg.355).
[2] Abu Ubayd in his *Amwaal*, Bukhari and Bayhaqi, as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.3 Pg.147).

Story 70: Hadhrat Abbaas τ is Captured

Amongst the captives of the Battle of Badr was Hadhrat Abbaas bin Abdul Muttalib τ. A man from the Ansaar captured him and the other Ansaar threatened to kill him. Because this news reached Rasulullaah ρ, he said, "I was unable to sleep last night because the Ansaar have said that they would kill my uncle Abbaas." "Should I go to the Ansaar (and fetch Hadhrat Abbaas τ)?" Hadhrat Umar τ offered. When Rasulullaah ρ bade him to do so, he went to them and said, **"Release Abbaas." "Never," responded the Ansaar, "we swear by Allaah that we shall never release him." "Even if it pleases Rasulullaah ρ?" asked Hadhrat Umar τ. The Ansaar immediately acceded saying, "If it pleases Rasulullaah ρ, you may have him."** Hadhrat Umar τ took him in his custody and when Hadhrat Abbaas τ was with him, Hadhrat Umar τ said to him, "Accept Islaam, O Abbaas. I swear by Allaah that your accepting Islaam would please me more than (my father) Khattaab accepting Islaam. This is only because I know that your accepting Islaam would please Rasulullaah ρ."[1]

Story 71: Hadhrat Umar τ and Sa'eed bin Al Aas τ

When Hadhrat Umar τ once passed by Hadhrat Sa'eed bin Al Aas τ, he asked, "It seems to me that you are upset with me because you think that I had killed your father. Had I killed him, I would not have made any excuses **for it because I killed my own maternal uncle Aas bin Hishaam bin Mughiera.** Nevertheless, the truth is that when I passed by your father (on the battlefield) he was (lying down wounded and) hitting his head on the ground as a bull hits its horns on the ground. I then steered away from him and it was his cousin Ali who headed for him and killed him.[2] Another narration adds that Hadhrat Sa'eed τ said, "Even if you killed him, it was you who was on the truth while he was on falsehood." This statement greatly pleased Hadhrat Umar τ.[3]

Story 72: Hadhrat Umar τ protects a little boy

---

[1] Ibn Mardway and Haakim, as quoted in *Al Bidaayah wan Nihaayah* (Vol.3 Pg.298).
[2] Ibn Hishaam, as quoted in *Al Bidaayah wan Nihaayah* (Vol.3 Pg.290).
[3] *Isti'aab* and *Isaabah*.

Hadhrat Sinaan bin Salamah Hudhali says, "I once went out with some other boys to pick up dates (that had fallen to the ground). Hadhrat Umar τ suddenly appeared with a lash in his hand and when the boys saw him, they dispersed amongst the date palms. I stood where I was with the dates I had picked up collected in my lower garment. 'O Ameerul Mu'mineen,' I said, 'these are the dates that the wind has blown off.' He looked at what was in my garment but did not hit me. I then said further, 'O Ameerul Mu'mineen! The boys are now ahead of me and they take away all that I have.' 'Never,' Hadhrat Umar τ assured me, 'Walk ahead.' He then accompanied me to my home."[1]

Story 73: A Trustworthy Slave

Hadhrat Umar τ was travelling somewhere when he passed by a slave grazing his master's flock of goats. "Do sell us a goat," Hadhrat Umar τ asked the slave. The slave responded, "I cannot since they are not my goats, but belong to my master." To test him further, Hadhrat Umar τ suggested, "You may tell him that a wolf had eaten the goat." The slave said, "Even if I tell that to my master, what will I tell my Rabb on the Day of Qiyaamah?" This reply made Hadhrat Umar τ weep. He then approached the master, purchased the slave and set him free. He then told the slave, "I have set you free with the hope that you may set me free from Jahannam on the Day of Qiyaamah."[2]

Story 74: The Sleep of Hadhrat Umar τ

Hadhrat Mu'aawiya bin Khudayj τ once came hurrying to Hadhrat Umar τ to inform him that Alexandria had been conquered. When he found Hadhrat Umar τ lying on his back, he exclaimed, "Ameerul Mu'mineen is asleep." This immediately awakened Hadhrat Umar τ, who asked, "What did you say?" "I said that the Ameerul Mu'mineen is asleep," came the reply. **Hadhrat Umar τ then said, "I shall be destroying the people if I sleep by day and I shall be destroying myself if I sleep by night. However, sleep still comes."**[3]

---

[1] Ibn Sa'd (Vol.7 Pg.90).
[2] *Ramadhaan Shahrun Nafahaat* pg.2
[3] *Akhbaar Umar* pg.290.

Story 75: An Infant and Four Women

A woman once came to Hadhrat Umar τ saying, "O Ameerul Mu'mineen! I have found a child (abandoned) together with an Egyptian cloth bag containing a hundred Dinaars. I then took the child and hired a wet nurse for him. There are now four women who come to the child and kiss him. I do not know which of them may be his mother." Hadhrat Umar τ then told her to inform him as soon as the women arrived again. When she did as told, Hadhrat Umar τ came and asked one of the women, "Which of you is the child's mother?" She responded by saying, "O Umar! You have not done well and your approach is totally wrong. Do you wish to expose a woman whom Allaah has concealed?" "You are right," Hadhrat Umar τ admitted. He then said to the lady (caring for the child), "Whenever these women come to you, you should not question them about anything and continue caring for the child." He then left.[1]

Story 76: A Saintly Governor

Hadhrat Umar τ had sent Hadhrat Umayr bin Sa'd Ansaari τ as the governor of Hims but had not received any news from him even after a year. Hadhrat Umar τ then said to his scribe, "Write a letter to Umayr. By Allaah! I feel that he has betrayed us!" The following was then sent to Hadhrat Umayr τ:

"Come here as soon as this letter reaches you. When you look at this letter, you should immediately come with all the booty of the Muslims that you have collected."

Hadhrat Umayr τ then took his leather bag, put his journey's provisions and a dish into it and hung his water bag onto it. He also took his spear with him and left Hims on foot. When he arrived in Madinah, he was pale, his face was covered in dust and his hair was very long. He went to Hadhrat Umar τ and greeted him saying, "Peace be on you, O Ameerul Mu'mineen together with Allaah's mercy and His blessings." "What is wrong with you?" asked Hadhrat Umar τ. Hadhrat Umayr τ

---

[1] Bayhaqi, as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.7 Pg.329).

responded by saying, "What do you see wrong in me? Do you not see that I am good health, with pure blood and that I am dragging the world along with me by its horns?" Thinking that he had brought much wealth along, Hadhrat Umar τ asked, "What do you have with you?" Hadhrat Umayr τ replied, "I have my bag with me in which I have my provisions. I have my dish in which I eat and wash my hair and clothes in. I also have my water bag in which I carry the water for my wudhu and for drinking. Then I have my spear from which I take support and use to fight off any enemy that confronts me. By Allaah! The world is dependent only on these possessions of mine (they are enough for all my needs)."

Hadhrat Umar τ then asked, "Have you come walking?" When Hadhrat Umayr τ replied in the affirmative, Hadhrat Umar τ said, "Was there no one who could lend you their animal to ride?" Hadhrat Umayr τ replied, "Neither did they offer nor did I ask." "What terrible Muslims you have come from!" Hadhrat Umar τ exclaimed. Hadhrat Umayr τ cautioned, "Fear Allaah, O Umar! Allaah has prohibited us from backbiting and I have seen them perform their Fajr salaah (those who perform their Fajr salaah are in the custody of Allaah and none should harm them in any way, physically or verbally)."

Hadhrat Umar τ then asked him, "Where did I send you? (Tabraani reports that he asked, "Where is that for which I had sent you?"). What have you done there?" "What are you asking?" queried Hadhrat Umayr τ. "Subhaanallaah!" gasped Hadhrat Umar τ. Hadhrat Umayr τ then explained, "Were it not for the fear that it would depress you, I would not have informed you. However, you sent me and I reached the place, I then gathered all the pious people from amongst them and charged them with collecting the booty of the Muslims. When they had done so, I spent it all in the appropriate avenues. Had there been a share for you in it, I would have surely brought it to you." "Then you have brought back nothing?" asked Hadhrat Umar τ. "Nothing at all," came the reply. Hadhrat Umar τ then issued the command for Hadhrat Umayr τ's term as governor to be renewed. However, Hadhrat Umayr τ submitted, "This (being a governor) is something that I can neither do for you nor for anyone else after you. By Allaah! I have not been saved (from the evils of governorship). I once said to a Christian woman, 'May Allaah humiliate you!' This is the evil that you have exposed me to, O Umar. The worst of my days were those in which I stayed behind (in this world without dying earlier) with you, O Umar. Hadhrat Umayr τ

then sought leave and Hadhrat Umar τ granted it. He then returned to his home, which lay a few miles outside Madinah.

After Hadhrat Umayr τ had left, Hadhrat Umar τ said, "I still think that he has betrayed us (he has brought back much wealth and kept it at his house)." Hadhrat Umar τ then gave a hundred Dinaars (gold coins) to a man called Haarith and sent him with the instructions, "Go to Umayr as if you are a guest. If you see signs of a good life, return to me immediately. However, if you see him in extreme poverty, give him these hundred Dinaars. When Hadhrat Haarith arrived at the house, he found Hadhrat Umayr τ sitting against a wall and removing lice from his upper garment. Haarith greeted Hadhrat Umayr τ, who said to him, "Why not dismount, may Allaah have mercy on you." Hadhrat Haarith dismounted and Hadhrat Umayr τ asked him, "Where are you coming from?" When Hadhrat Haarith replied that he was coming from Madinah, Hadhrat Umayr τ asked, "How was the Ameerul Mu'mineen when you left?" "He was fine," replied Hadhrat Haarith. "And how were the Muslims?" was the next question. "They were also fine," Hadhrat Haarith replied.

"Does the Ameerul Mu'mineen enforce the penal code?" asked Hadhrat Umayr τ. "Oh yes," responded Hadhrat Haarith, "he even lashed his son who had done wrong, because of which he died." (This was not so because he died of natural causes a month after the lashing.) Hadhrat Umayr τ prayed, "O Allaah! Assist Umar because as far as I know, he has great love for You." Hadhrat Haarith then stayed there for three days. **The family had nothing to eat besides a loaf of barley bread, which they fed to Hadhrat Haarith while they stayed hungry.** Eventually, when the hunger was too much for them to bear, Hadhrat Umayr τ said to Hadhrat Haarith, "Your presence has caused us hunger, so if you can, would you please go somewhere else?"

Hadhrat Haarith then took out the hundred Dinaars and handed it to Hadhrat Umayr τ saying, "The Ameerul Mu'mineen has sent this for you, so use it." Hadhrat Umayr τ sighed deeply and said, "I have no need for this. Take it back." His wife then came and said, "Use it if you need it, otherwise spent it where it should be spent." Hadhrat Umayr τ said, "By Allaah! I have nothing to spend it on." His wife then tore off the bottom part of her scarf and gave it to him. He put the money in the piece of cloth and then went out to spend the money on the children of the martyrs and the poor. He then returned. Hadhrat

Haarith thought that Hadhrat Umayr τ would give him also something, but all that Hadhrat Umayr τ said was, "Convey my Salaams to the Ameerul Mu'mineen."

When Hadhrat Haarith returned, Hadhrat Umar τ asked, "What did you see?" "O Ameerul Mu'mineen!" Hadhrat Haarith replied, "I see an extremely difficult life." "What did he do with the Dinaars?" Hadhrat Umar τ enquired. "I do not know," submitted Hadhrat Haarith. Hadhrat Umar τ then wrote to Hadhrat Umayr τ with instructions to come to him without even putting the letter down. When Hadhrat Umayr τ arrived and went to see Hadhrat Umar τ, the Ameerul Mu'mineen asked, "What did you do with the Dinaars?" Hadhrat Umayr τ replied, "I did what I had to do with it. Why should you ask about it?" Hadhrat Umar τ demanded, "I command you in the name of Allaah to tell me what you did with it!" Hadhrat Umayr τ then responded by saying, "I sent it ahead (to the Aakhirah) for myself." "May Allaah shower his mercy on you!" exclaimed Hadhrat Umar τ. **Hadhrat Umar τ then issued instructions for Hadhrat Umayr τ to be given two *Wasaqs* of grain and two sets of clothing.** Hadhrat Umayr τ said, "I have no need for the food because I have at home two *Saa* of barley and Allaah will provide more when I have eaten that." He therefore did not take the food. With regard to the clothing he said, "A certain person's mother has no clohes (I shall give it to her)." He then took it and returned home. It not long afterwards that he passed away. May Allaah shower His mercies on him.

When Hadhrat Umar τ received the news, he was extremely distressed and prayed to Allaah to shower His mercy on Hadhrat Umayr τ. Hadhrat Umar τ then walked to Baqee Gharqad (the graveyard of Madinah) and was accompanied by many others walking with him. Hadhrat Umar τ said to those with him, "Express your wishes." Someone said, "O Ameerul Mu'mineen! I wish that I had plenty of wealth so that I could buy and set free so many slaves." Another person said, "O Ameerul Mu'mineen! I wish that I had a lot of wealth to spend in the path of Allaah." Someone else said, "O Ameerul Mu'mineen! I wish that I had a lot of strength so that I may draw buckets of water to give the people performing Hajj." Hadhrat Umar τ then expressed his wish when he

said, "I wish that I had a person like Umayr bin Sa'd to assist me in administering the affairs of the Muslims."[1]

Story 77: Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Umar τ eats Meat

Hadhrat Umar τ once went to his son Abdullaah τ's house at a time when he was eating some meat. "Why are you eating this meat?" Hadhrat Abdullaah τ replied, "I was craving for some." Hadhrat Umar τ rebuked him saying, "Will you always buy something merely because you crave for it? **It is enough to classify a person as extravagant for him eat whatever he craves for."[2]**

Story 78: Hadhrat Abu Moosa τ and a Drunkard

Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Umar τ narrates that he was once with (his father) Hadhrat Umar τ for Hajj or Umrah when they spotted a rider arrive. "I think that he is looking for us," said Hadhrat Umar τ. When the man arrived, he started weeping. Hadhrat Umar τ consoled him saying, "What is the matter? If you are in debt, we shall assist you. If you are in fear, we shall grant you security; unless you have murdered someone and deserve to be executed. If you dislike living amongst certain people, we shall transfer you away from them."

The man replied, "When living with the Banu Taym, I drank some wine. Abu Moosa Ash'ari τ had me flogged, shaved off my hair, blackened my face and had me paraded through the streets announcing to the people, 'Do not associate with him and do not eat with him!' Three ideas then came to my mind. The first was to use my sword to kill Abu Moosa, the second was to come to you so that you may transfer me to Shaam where no one knows me, and the third was to join the enemy and to eat and drink with them."

---

[1] Abu Nu'aym in his *Hilya* (Vol.1 Pg.247). Tabraani has reported a similar narration from Hadhrat Umayr bin Sa'd τ and *Haythami* (Vol.9 Pg.384) has commented on the chain of narrators. Ibn Asaakir has reported a similar narration in detail, as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.7 Pg.79).

[2] Abdur Razzaaq, Ahmad in his *Zuhd*, Askari in his *Mawaa'idh* and Ibn Asaakir, as quoted in *Muntakhab Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.4 Pg.401).

Hadhrat Umar τ then also started to weep saying, "Even if Umar were to have a staggering sum of wealth, it would give me no pleasure if you were to do these things. In fact, I had been one of the worst drunks during the Period of Ignorance. Drinking is not as serious a crime as adultery." Hadhrat Umar τ then wrote to Hadhrat Abu Moosa Ash'ari τ. After greeting him and informing him that the particular person from the Banu Taym tribe had reported the incident to him, he wrote:

"I swear by Allaah that if you ever repeat yourself, I shall ensure that I blacken your face and parade you through the streets. If you wish to know whether my words are true, go ahead and repeat what you did. **Command the people to associate with the man and to eat with him. If he has repented, they should also accept his testimony."**

Hadhrat Umar τ then gave the man transport together with two hundred Dirhams.[1]

Story 79: The Daughter of a Milk Merchant

It was during the time when Hadhrat Umar τ was the Khalifah that he was walking about to check on the condition of the people when he happened to hear a mother telling her daughter, "Mix some water with the milk so that we may get a bigger profit when we sell it tomorrow. Umar τ is not watching." However, the daughter replied, "Dear mother! Even if he cannot see me, His Rabb Allaah sees everything."

As he heard all of this, Hadhrat Umar τ was very pleased and instructed his slave Aslam to remember the house and to make enquiries about the family. Aslam reported back that the daughter was unmarried and that there was no father in the house. Hadhrat Umar τ then summoned his sons and said to them, "If any of you needs to marry, then I shall marry him to this woman. Had you father been able to take another wife, none of you would have beat me to her." His sons Abdullaah and Abdur Rahmaan submitted that they were already married, but Aasim accepted the advice of his father since he was yet to marry. Hadhrat Umar τ then proposed for the girl's hand for Aasim and the two were married. **They then had a daughter, whose son happened to be the illustrious Umar bin Abdul Azeez رحمه الله, whom many people**

[1] Bayhaqi, as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.3 Pg.107).

refer to as the fifth Khalifah from amongst the Khulafaa Raashideen.[1]

Story 80: "You will have no more than your fixed allowance"

Hadhrat Umar τ was once riding with some of the Sahabah ψ in a street of Madinah when he noticed a pale and frail little girl with dishevelled hair. Out of hunger, she sometimes fell down as she walked. "What a poor child!" Hadhrat Umar τ exclaimed, "Do any of you recognise her?" His son Hadhrat Abdullaah τ who was next to him said, "Do you not recognise her, O Ameerul Mu'mineen?" "Who is she?" Hadhrat Umar τ asked. "She is your daughter," Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Umar τ replied. "Which daughter of mine?" Hadhrat Umar τ asked. Hadhrat Abdullaah τ replied, "She is the daughter of your son Abdullaah."

In a rage, Hadhrat Umar τ asked his son, "Why is she in such a pathetic condition?" Hadhrat Abdullaah τ replied, "Because of the insufficient allowance that you give me." Hadhrat Umar τ retorted, "My not giving you more does not prevent you from earning for your daughters what every strong man earns for his children. **By Allaah! You will have no more than your fixed allowance whether it is sufficient for you or not. The Book of Allaah is the judge between us."**[2]

Story 81: The Battle for the Bridge

Hadhrat Mu'aadh Qaari τ from the Banu Najjaar tribe was amongst those who was present and had fled during the battle for the Bridge of Abu Ubayd. He always wept whenever he recited the following verse of the Qur'aan:

وَمَن يُوَلِّهِمْ يَوْمَئِذٍ دُبُرَهُ إِلاَّ مُتَحَرِّفاً لِّقِتَالٍ أَوْ مُتَحَيِّزاً إِلَى فِئَةٍ فَقَدْ بَاء بِغَضَبٍ مِّنَ اللّهِ وَمَأْوَاهُ جَهَنَّمُ وَبِئْسَ الْمَصِيرُ

[1] Ibn Sa'd (Vol.5 Pg.330).
[2] *Manaaqib* pg.119.

On such a day *(of battle)*, **whoever will turn his back to them with a reason other than altering the course of battle** *(such as pretending to flee so that the enemy follows them into an ambush)* **or** *(flees with a reason other than)* **retreating to** *(join with)* **another group** *(of Muslim soldiers so that their combined force can fight the enemy)*, **then indeed he shall return with Allaah's anger and his abode shall be Jahannam** *(because deserting the battlefield is a major sin)*. **What an evil place to return to!** {Surah Anfaal, verse 16}

Hadhrat Umar τ would then say to him, "Do not weep, O Mu'aadh. I am your base to whom you have retreated (to regroup and have reinforcements before launching another attack)." Hadhrat Umar τ then suggested that he go with the others to Shaam where he will not feel the burden of his experience. However, he refused, saying, "I shall rather return to the place from whence I fled and where I shall destroy the enemy that had destroyed me." He then fought in the Battle of Qaadisiyyah, where he was martyred.[1]

Story 82: "Will you carry my load on the Day of Qiyaamah?"

Hadhrat Aslam τ who was the slave of Hadhrat Umar τ reports that he once accompanied on his usual round towards Harrah (an area just outside Madinah). When Hadhrat Umar τ saw a fire in the distance, he said, "Perhaps that is a caravan that could not enter the town when night fell. Let us see to them and arrange for their safety for the night." When he reached there, he found a woman and her children. The children were crying and screaming, while the woman had a pan over the fire. All that was in the pan was some water. Hadhrat Umar τ greeted her with Salaam and approached her after first securing her permission. Their conversation ensued as follows:

Hadhrat Umar τ: Why are these children crying?

The Woman: They are very hungry

Hadhrat Umar τ: What is in the pan?

The Woman: Just some water to pacify the children to sleep in the hope that food is being prepared for them. O! Allaah will judge between

---

[1] Ibn Jareer (Vol.4 Pg.70), Tabari (Vol.3 Pg.459) and Ibn Sa'd (Vol.3 Pg.458).

Umar τ and myself on the Day of Qiyaamah for neglecting me in my need!

Hadhrat Umar τ wept as he replied : May Allaah have mercy on you! How can Umar know of your need?

The Woman: **When he is our leader, he should keep himself informed about us.**

Hadhrat Umar τ then returned to the town and immediately proceeded to the state treasury (The Baytul Maal) to fill a sack with flour, dates, fat and clothing and also some Dirhams. When the sack was filled, he instructed Hadhrat Aslam to load it on his back. "O no Ameerul Mu'mineen! Let me carry this sack." However, despite his insistence, Hadhrat Umar τ refused to allow him to carry the sack and remarked, **"Will you carry my load on the Day of Qiyaamah? I must carry this bag because I shall be questioned about the woman."** Hadhrat Aslam then lifted the bag on Hadhrat Umar τ's back and the Ameerul Mu'mineen carried it speedily to the woman's tent with Hadhrat Aslam close behind.

Hadhrat Umar τ himself placed some flour, fat and dates in the pan, stirred the mixture and blew into the fire to stoke it. **Hadhrat Aslam says, "I could see the smoke passing through his thick beard."** When the food was ready, Hadhrat Umar τ himself served it to the family. When they had eaten to their fill, the children were overjoyed and began to play. Hadhrat Umar τ then handed over what was left over for them to eat later. The woman felt very grateful and said, "May Allaah reward you! You deserve to be the Khalifah in place of Umar." Hadhrat Umar τ replied, "When you do to see the Khalifah, you will find me there."

Hadhrat Umar τ then left the camp and sat at a place nearby to watch the children. On his way back, he said, "I sat there because I had seen those children weeping and I now liked to see them laughing."[1]

Story 83: "I swear by Allaah that it was I who was at fault"

[1] *Al Bidaayah wan Nihaayah* (Vol.7 Pg.136).

The Sahabah ψ were once sitting with Rasulullaah ρ when Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ came in (in a hurry) holding the edge of his clothing (and without him realising it) because of which his knees were exposed. Rasulullaah ρ commented, "Look! Your friend has had an argument." After greeting with Salaam, Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ said, "I had an argument with (Hadhrat Umar) Ibn Khattaab and in the huff I told him something. I then regretted the words and asked him to forgive me. However, he refused to do so and I have therefore come to you." Rasulullaah ρ thrice repeated, "May Allaah forgive you, O Abu Bakr."

Hadhrat Umar τ later regretted (not forgiving Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ) and went to his house. When he asked if Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ was at home, he was informed that Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ was not there. He then went to Rasulullaah ρ and greeted with Salaam. However, Rasulullaah ρ's face reddened (with anger) so much that Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ became alarmed. Kneeling down before Rasulullaah ρ, Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ pleaded, "O Rasulullaah ρ! I swear by Allaah that it was I who was at fault." After Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ had repeated this twice, Rasulullaah ρ said, "When Allaah sent me (as a Nabi-prophet) to you people, you all said that I was lying except for Abu Bakr who said, 'He is speaking the truth.' He then supported me with his health and wealth, so will you people not leave my companion alone for my sake?" This Rasulullaah ρ repeated twice, after which no one hurt Hadhrat Abu Bakr τ ever again.[1]

Story 84: A Bag of Gold Coins

Hadhrat Umar τ once placed four hundred Dinaars in a bag and said to his slave, "Take this to Abu Ubaydah bin Jarraah and then busy yourself with something in the house for a while to see what he does with it." The slave took the bag and said to Hadhrat Abu Ubaydah τ, "Ameerul Mu'mineen says that you should use this for your needs." Hadhrat Abu Ubaydah τ prayed, "May Allaah reward him and shower His mercy on him." He then called for his slave girl and instructed her to give seven coins to a certain person, another five to another and another five to someone else. In this manner, he gave everything away. The slave then returned to Hadhrat Umar τ and informed him about what had transpired.

---

[1] Bukhaari, as quoted in *Sifatus Safwah* (Vol.1 Pg.92).

Hadhrat Umar τ then had the same amount of money placed in a bag for Hadhrat Mu'aadh bin Jabal τ. Addressing his slave once more, Hadhrat Umar τ said, "Take this to Mu'aadh bin Jabal τ and then busy yourself with something in the house for a while to see what he does with it." The slave took the bag and said to Hadhrat Mu'aadh bin Jabal τ, "Ameerul Mu'mineen says that you should use this for your needs." Hadhrat Mu'aadh bin Jabal τ prayed, "May Allaah shower His mercy on him and reward him." He then called for his slave girl and instructed her to give an amount to a certain family, another amount to another and so forth until all the money was finished. When Hadhrat Mu'aadh bin Jabal τ's wife came to know about this, she came to him and said, "What about us? By Allaah! We are also poor. Do give us some of it." By then all that was left in the bag was two Dinaars, which he handed over to her. When the slave reported back to Hadhrat Umar τ, he was very pleased and said, "They are all brothers of each other (and therefore act alike)."[1]

Story 85: "You may now have back your trust"

Hadhrat Umar τ was once patrolling the streets when he saw a man carrying his son upon his shoulders. Hadhrat Umar τ exclaimed, "I have never before seen a child resemble his father as much as this child does." "O Ameerul Mu'mineen!" the father said, "This is the child whose mother delivered him after her death." "What are you saying?" Hadhrat Umar τ asked in surprise.

The man explained, "I left for Jihaad when his mother was expecting him with the words, 'I place in the trust of Allaah that which your belly carries.' However, when I returned, I discovered with great sadness that my wife had passed away. **I was sitting in Jannatul Baqee one night with my cousin when I saw a light. 'What is that?' I asked. He replied, 'All we know is that there is a light every night by the grave of that woman.' I then took a shovel and went to the grave, which I found open. Inside I saw this child sitting on his mother's lap. As I drew closer, a voice addressed me saying,** 'O he who had left a trust with his Rabb! You may now have back your trust. Had you left his mother with Us as a trust, you

[1] Tabraani in his *Kabeer*, as quoted in *Targheeb wat Tarheeb* (Vol.2 Pg.177). Haythami (Vol.3 Pg.125) and Haafidh in *Isaabah* (Vol.3 Pg.484) have commented on the chain of narrators. Abu Nu'aym in his *Hilya* (Vol.1 Pg.237) and Ibn Sa'd (Vol.3 Pg.300) have also reported the narration.

would have had her as well.' I then took the child and the grave closed up."[1]

Story 86: O Umar! O Umar!

Hadhrat Umar τ was once lying down when he heard a Bedouin screaming, "O Umar! O Umar!" he woke up with a start and saw the man standing with the reins of his camel in his hands and people around him. "Who is he and what is the matter?" Hadhrat Umar τ asked. All the man said were a few couplets concerning the drought. Placing his hand on his head, Hadhrat Umar τ said to the people, "O Umar! O Umar! Do you know what he is saying" He is complaining of a severe drought. He says that while people are suffering the effects of the drought, Umar is eating and drinking in comfort."

Hadhrat Umar τ then dispatched many camels laden with grains to the afflicted region. Two men from the Ansaar led the caravan to Yemen, where they distributed all but a small portion, which amounted to just a handful. As they were returning to Madinah, they came across a weak man who was performing salaah. As they passed, he terminated his salaah and asked them, "Do you have anything with you?" They gave him what was left and **informed him that Hadhrat Umar τ would be sending more. The man exclaimed, "We will be destroyed if we have to depend on Umar!" He then threw everything aside and continued his salaah. He stretched out his hands before Allaah in great humility and made du'aa. He had not yet completed his du'aa when rain started to pour down.**[2]

Story 87: "A single Muslim is more valuable to me"

Hadhrat Umar τ once emerged from his home with his fingers in his ears and saying, "If only I could have been at your service! If only I could have been at your service!" When the people asked what the matter was, Hadhrat Umar τ informed them that a messenger had some to him from one of his governors stating that a river presented an obstacle to the progress of their army and they could not find and

[1] *Manaaqib* pg. 74.
[2] *Manaaqib* pg.75.

boat to cross over. The Ameer of the army instructed the others to find a man who knew how to gauge the depth of a river. They brought an old man who pleaded to the Ameer saying, "I fear the cold." Although it was winter, the Ameer forced him to go into the river and it was no long before the cold overcame him and the last thing he shouted before he drowned was, "Help me, O Umar!"

Hadhrat Umar τ wrote to the Ameer (to come to Madinah) and when he arrived, Hadhrat Umar τ ignored him for a few days. Hadhrat Umar τ usually did this when he was angry with someone. Hadhrat Umar τ then asked him, "What wrong was done by the man you killed?" The Ameer said, "O Ameerul Mu'mineen! I never intended to kill him. Because we could find nothing with which to cross over, we only wanted to ascertain the depth of the water." He then went on to enumerate the many territories they had conquered. However, Hadhrat Umar τ said, **"A single Muslim is more valuable to me than all your achievements. Had I not feared that it would become a common practice, I would have executed you. Pay the Diyah to his family and go somewhere where I would not see you again."**[1]

Story 88: A poor governor

Hadhrat Umar τ once sent for Hadhrat Sa'eed bin Aamir Jumhi τ and said to him, "We wish to appoint you governor of Hims." Hadhrat Sa'eed τ said, "O Umar! Please do not try me." Hadhrat Umar τ resolved "I shall never leave you. You people have cast this responsibility (of Khilaafah) on my neck and now you wish to leave me all alone! I am sending you with a group of people from whom you are not the best. I am not sending you to whip them or to humiliate them but only to lead them in Jihaad against their enemies and to distribute their booty amongst them."

As he left, Hadhrat Umar τ asked whether he required a salary from the Baytul Maal. "What will I do with it?" Hadhrat Sa'eed τ asked, "I already received an allowance, which is more than I need." With this, he left for Hims.

When some people from Hims came to Hadhrat Umar τ a while later, **Hadhrat Umar τ asked them to compile a list of the**

---

[1] Bayhaqi, as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.7 Pg.299).

impoverished in Hims. When they had done so, Hadhrat Umar τ noticed that name of Hadhrat Sa'eed τ amongst them. "Who is this Sa'eed bin Aamir?" Hadhrat Umar τ asked. "He is our governor?" the people replied. "You have a governor who is impoverished?" Hadhrat Umar τ asked. They explained, "By Allaah! Many days go by without a fire being lit in his house." **Hadhrat Umar τ then started to weep so much that his beard became bet.** He then sent a bag containing a thousand Dinaars for Hadhrat Sa'eed τ, which was to be used for himself.

When Hadhrat Sa'eed τ received the bag, he exclaimed, "*Innaa Lillaahi wa Innaa Ilayhi Raaji'oon*!" Hearing this, his wife ran to him, thinking that something bad had happened. "Has the Ameerul Mu'mineen passed away?" she asked. "Even worse than that," Hadhrat Sa'eed τ said. "Has some disaster afflicted the Muslims?" she asked again. "Even worse than that," he repeated. "Then what has happened!" she begged to know. Pointing to the bag, Hadhrat Sa'eed τ replied, "The tribulations of this world have entered our home." Unaware of the contents of the bag, the wife said, "What is there to fear in this?" "Will you then help me?" Hadhrat Sa'eed τ asked her. "Of course," she agreed. Hadhrat Sa'eed τ then distributed all the money amongst the poor. May Allaah shower His mercies on Hadhrat Sa'eed τ and his family.[1]

Story 89: Hadhrat Sa'eed bin Aamir τ and the people of Hims

After appointing Hadhrat Sa'eed bin Aamir bin Judhaym τ as governor in Hims, Hadhrat Umar τ himself visited Hims and asked, "O people of Hims! How have you found your governor?" The people then started complaining about him. **Hims was termed 'small Kufa' because of the complaints they always had against their governors (the people of Kufa are noted for this).** The people said, "We have four complaints against him. He does not come out to us until nearly half the day has passed." "That is a serious complaint," remarked Hadhrat Umar τ, "What else?" They continued, "He does not see anyone at night." "Another serious complaint," Hadhrat Umar τ commented, "What else?" They said, "There is a day in every month when he does

---

[1] Hilya (Vol.1 Pg.245).

not come out at all." Hadhrat Umar τ said, "That is also serious. What else?" They concluded by saying, "At times he suffers bouts of unconsciousness and appears to be dead."

Hadhrat Umar τ then brought the people of Hims and Hadhrat Sa'eed τ together and prayed, "O Allaah! Do not allow my opinion of him to fail." He then asked the people to lodge their complaints. They said, "He does not come out to us until nearly half the day has passed." Hadhrat Sa'eed τ exclaimed, "By Allaah! I do not want to speak about this but the fact of the matter is that I do not have a servant. I therefore knead the dough myself, wait for it to rise and then bake my bread. Thereafter, I perform wudhu and go out." Hadhrat Umar τ again asked, "What is your complaint?" The people said, "He does not see anyone at night." "What have you to say about this?" Hadhrat Umar τ asked. Hadhrat Sa'eed τ replied, "I would also not like to mention this but I reserve the day for the people and the night for Allaah."

"What is your next complaint?" Hadhrat Umar τ asked them. They said, "There is a day in every month when he does not come out at all." "What have you to say about this?" Hadhrat Umar τ asked. Hadhrat Sa'eed τ replied, "Because I have no servant, I have to wash my clothes myself and have nothing else to change into. I therefore wash my clothes and then wait for them to dry. Because they are thick, they become firm and I have to rub them before they soften up. This takes the entire day and I am then only able to see the people by the evening."

Hadhrat Umar τ again asked, "What is your complaint?" The people said, "At times he suffers bouts of unconsciousness and appears to be dead." "What have you to say about this?" Hadhrat Umar τ asked him. Hadhrat Sa'eed τ replied, "I was present in Makkah when Khubayb Ansaari τ was martyred. The Quraysh had cut his flesh in pieces and when they crucified him, they asked, 'Do you wish that Muhammad was here with us in your place?' He replied, 'I swear by Allaah that I would not even like a thorn to prick Muhammad ρ where he is while I am sitting with my family.' He then called out, 'O Muhammad ε!' Whenever I recall that day and the fact that I did nothing to help him and that I was a Mushrik who did not believe in Allaah, I think that Allaah will never forgive me for that sin. It is then that I fall

unconscious." Hadhrat Umar τ then exclaimed, "All praise is due to Allaah Who has not made my intuition fail."[1]

Story 90: Hadhrat Umar τ eats with servants

Hadhrat Umar τ was in Makkah for the Hajj when he was invited by Hadhrat Safwaan bin Umayyah τ for a meal. The meal was prepared in a large utensil that needed four men to carry it. As they ate, Hadhrat Umar τ noticed that the servants were standing by. "Do your servants not eat with you?" Hadhrat Umar τ asked in surprise, "Or do you shun them?" Hadhrat Safwaan τ replied, "There is no such thing. However, we do give ourselves preference over them." Hadhrat Umar τ became enraged as he said, "Destroyed are the people who give preference to themselves over their servants." He then summoned the servants to eat with them and they shared the meal with the Ameerul Mu'mineen.[2]

Story 91: Feed the

A delicacy called Khabees was once served to Hadhrat Utba bin Farqd τ when he was in Azerbaijan. He found it extremely palatable and enjoyable, so decided to send some to Hadhrat Umar τ in Madinah. The meal was prepared and then sent with two men on a camel to Hadhrat Umar τ. When Hadhrat Umar τ received it and was told what it was, he tasted a bit. He also found it to be tasty and asked the men who brought it, "Do all Muslims eat this in your area?" When they replied in the negative, Hadhrat Umar τ had the food returned to Hadhrat Utba, with a letter stating, "This food has not been the fruits of your efforts, nor the fruits of your father or mother's efforts. **Feed the people in their homes with that which you feed yourself in your home."**[3]

Story 92: Hadhrat Umar τ Cautions his son

There once arose a dispute between Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Umar τ and Hadhrat Miqdaad τ. When Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Umar τ swore Hadhrat Miqdaad τ, the latter complained to Hadhrat Abdullaah τ's father (Hadhrat Umar τ). Hadhrat Umar τ then vowed to cut off the tongue of

---

[1] Abu Nu'aym in his *Hilya* (Vol.1 Pg.245).
[2] *Manaaqib* pg.100.
[3] *Kanzul Ummaal* (Hadith 35937).

his son. When Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Umar τ feared that his father would fulfil the vow, he sent some people to intercede on his behalf. However, **Hadhrat Umar τ said, "Leave me to cut off his tongue so that this becomes a precedent for others to emulate after me. Every person who then swears any of the companions of Rasulullaah ρ will then have his tongue cut off."**[1]

Story 93: "Ummu Saleet is more deserving"

That Hadhrat Umar τ was once distributing some cloth amongst the women of Madinah. When a single good cloth was still left over, some people with him said, **"O Ameerul Mu'mineen! Give it to the granddaughter of Rasulullaah ρ married to you." They were referring to Hadhrat Ummu Kulthoom رضي الله عنها , the daughter of Hadhrat Ali τ (and Hadhrat Faatima رضي الله عنها).** Hadhrat Umar τ said, "Ummu Saleet is more deserving." Hadhrat Ummu Saleet رضي الله عنها was a woman from the Ansaar who had pledged allegiance to Rasulullaah ρ. Hadhrat Umar τ went on to explain, "Because she sewed water bags for us during the Battle of Uhud."[2]

Story 94: Hadhrat Umar τ and Hadhrat Aatika رضي الله عنها

Hadhrat Shafaa bint Abdullaah Adawiyyah رضي الله عنها reports that Hadhrat Umar τ once sent a message that she should come to see him the following morning. She says, "When I got there in the morning, I found Aatika bint Usayd bin Abil Ees رضي الله عنها at his door. We entered together and spoke for while when Umar τ sent for a shawl and gave it to her. He then sent for a shawl of inferior quality and gave that to me. I said, 'O Umar! I accepted Islaam before her and I am also your cousin while she is not. Furthermore, you had sent for me while she came of her own accord (why did she then receive a better shawl?).' He replied, 'I had originally kept that shawl for you but when the two of you came together, it occurred to me that she was more closely related to Rasulullaah ρ than you are **(I therefore gave preference to the relatives of Rasulullaah ρ over my own).'"**[3]

---

[1] Ibn Asaakir, as quoted in *Muntakhab Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.4 Pg.424).
[2] Bukhari. Abu Nu'aym and Abu Ubayd have also reported the narration, as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.7 Pg.97).
[3] Zubayr bin Bakkaar, as quoted in *Isaabah* (Vol.4 Pg.356).

Story 95: The Vial of Honey

Hadhrat Umar τ once fell ill and honey was prescribed to treat him. At that time there was a vial of honey in the public treasury. Hadhrat Umar τ therefore came out and mounted the pulpit saying (to the people), **"I shall use the honey in the public treasury only if you people permit. Otherwise it will be Haraam for me."** The people gladly gave their permission.[1]

Story 96: "Seek the knowledge of the Qur'aan"

There was a man who was always waiting at the door of Hadhrat Umar τ to receive some handouts. Hadhrat Umar τ once advised him to rather seek the knowledge of the Qur'aan. The man did as advised and never returned to the door of Hadhrat Umar τ. When Hadhrat Umar τ once asked him where he had been, he replied, **"I have found in the Book of Allaah that which has made me independent of Umar."**[2]

Story 97: A voice from the Grave

When Hadhrat Umar τ once passed by Baqee Gharqad (the graveyard of Madinah), he said, "*As Salaamu Alaykum*, O people of the graves! The news from our side is that your spouses have remarried, others are occupying your homes, and your wealth has already been distributed." **A voice then replied saying, "The news from our side is that we have found the good deeds we had sent ahead, we have seen the profits of the charity we spend and have lost out on that which we have left behind (without spending in charity)."**[3]

Story 98: A Martyr who is the son of a Martyr

Hadhrat Tufayl bin Amr τ returned (from the region of his tribe the Dows) to Rasulullaah ρ and remained with Rasulullaah ρ in Madinah until Rasulullaah ρ passed away. When some Arabs left the fold of Islaam, Hadhrat Tufayl τ left for the Battle of Yamaamah with his son

---

[1] Ibn Asaakir, as quoted in *Muntakhab Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.4 Pg.418).
[2] *Kanzul Ummaal* (Hadith 4015).
[3] Ibn Abi Dunya and Ibn Sam'aani, as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.8 Pg.123).

Hadhrat Amr bin Tufayl τ. While Hadhrat Tufayl τ was martyred in the battle, his son Hadhrat Amr τ was severely injured and his hand was cut off. He was once with Hadhrat Umar τ when some food was served. When Hadhrat Amr bin Tufayl τ stepped aside, Hadhrat Umar τ asked, "What is wrong? Are you stepping aside because of your (injured) hand (which you feel embarrassed to put into a plate with someone else)?" When Hadhrat Amr τ admitted that this was the reason, Hadhrat Umar τ said, "You should not do this! By Allaah! I shall not even taste the food until you have put your hand into it. I swear by Allaah that there is no person besides you who has a part of himself already in Jannah." Hadhrat Amr τ later left with the Muslims for the Battle of Yarmook where he was martyred.[1]

Story 99: His fear for Allaah

When Hadhrat Umar τ once asked for a drink, he was served some water mixed with honey. He said, "This is most excellent, but I have heard Allaah rebuke a nation for (following the dictates of) their desires. Allaah says[2]:

أَذْهَبْتُمْ طَيِّبَاتِكُمْ فِي حَيَاتِكُمُ الدُّنْيَا

"You have used up your good things in your worldly life *(and therefore have nothing for yourselves here)* **".**[3]

Story 100: A Tree that Resembles the Mu'min

Speaking to the Sahabah ψ one day, Rasulullaah ρ asked, "There is a tree that does not lose its leaves and resembles the Mu'min. Which tree is that?" Although Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Umar τ knew the answer, he did not say anything because he was a young boy amongst grown men. "Do inform us, O Rasulullaah ρ!" the Sahabah ψ submitted. "It is the date palm," Rasulullaah ρ replied. Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Umar τ later informed his father Hadhrat Umar τ that he had known the answer but was too shy to say it. Hadhrat Umar τ said to him, "I would have loved

[1] Ibn Sa'd and Ibn Asaakir, as quoted in *Kanzul Ummaal* (Vol.7 Pg.78).
[2] Surah Ahqaaf, verse 20
[3] Razeen, as quoted in *Targheeb wat Tarheeb* (Vol.5 Pg.168).

you to say the answer more than I would love to have a treasure of wealth."[1]

The Emperor of Rome and the Date Palm

Hadhrat Umar τ once received a letter from the Emperor of Rome, which read, "My envoys have informed me that you people have a tree that grows with leaves like the ears of elephants. It then bears a fruit that appears to be as white as pearls, before turning green like emeralds. They say that it then turns red like rubies before it is ready to eat and tastes like a delicious sweet drink. When it then dries and is harvested, it becomes a means of protection for the resident and a provision for the traveller. If my envoys are right, then this is indeed a tree from Jannah."

After reading this letter, Hadhrat Umar τ replied by writing, "Bismillaahir Rahmaanir Raheem. From Ameerul Mu'mineen Umar, the servant of Allaah to the Emperor of Rome. Peace be on those who follow the guidance. Your envoys were right. The tree is the same one that Allaah created for Maryam during her labour. **Fear Allaah and do not regard Isa υ as your deity when Allaah is."[2]**

Translation edited by
A.H.Elias (Mufti)
(May Allaah be with him)
Rabi-us-Thani—1431
March-2010

[1] *Targheeb wat Tarheeb* (Vol.4 Pg.117).
[2] *Kitaabun Nakhklah* pg.120.